



the **BRAVE** and the **BOLD**

STARRING

AND

BATMAN

The Riddler

ALL NEW!
60¢
U.K. 20p

MORE PAGES!
NO. 183
FEB.



LET'S ALL PLAY... *"The* **DEATH of** **BATMAN**



MORE
NEW
PAGES
FROM THE
NEW



2-03

7:31 PM. IN A SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL, IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY BLOCK OF THE GOTHAM PENITENTIARY, INMATE # 74658 IS OCCUPIED IN FILLING THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE REST OF HIS LIFE.



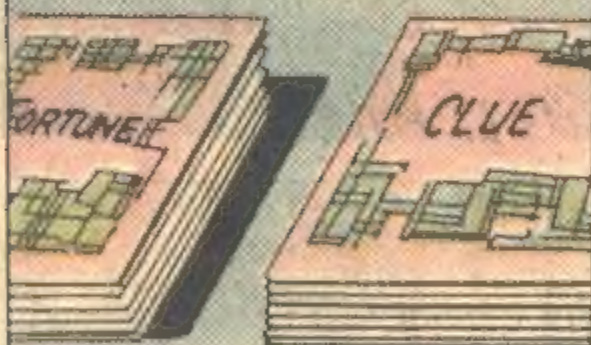
HIS SEARCHING EYES FIX ON A SMALL, BUT PROFOUND CHANGE IN THE MONOTONY OF HIS EXISTENCE!



HIS RESTLESS MIND SEIZES ON THIS NEW STIMULUS AND...



--HE RISES TO THE BAIT AS HIS OBSSIVE NATURE DEMANDS AN ANSWER TO THE PUZZLE THAT CONFRONTS HIM.



AND SO, EDWARD NIGMA, A MAN MORE CONCERNED IN THE PAST WITH THE CREATION OF RIDDLES THAN WITH SOLVING THEM, PICKS A CARD...

AND, AFTER THE DOOR OF HIS CELL MYSTERIOUSLY SWINGS OPEN...



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PLAY 'THE DEATH OF BATMAN.' R.S.V.P. (PICK A CARD)



--EDWARD NIGMA REALIZES THAT HE IS FREE AGAIN--FREE TO RESUME HIS ROLE AS THE RIDDLER!

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9:00 P.M. THE ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE BOW STREET CONSTABULARY AND AMATEUR CRACKSMEN'S SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FORENSIC STUDIES IS IN PROGRESS. THIS INFORMAL ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES THE GLORIES OF DETECTIVE FICTION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE THE HONOR OF INTRODUCING THE AUTHOR OF MORE THAN SIXTY MYSTERY NOVELS, THREE LONG RUNNING BROADWAY PLAYS, A LUMINARY OF THE LECTURE CIRCUIT AND TELEVISION TALK SHOWS, NOT TO MENTION BEING THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF OUR SOCIETY-- THE HONORABLE H. RUTHERFORD CREIGHTON!

YOU WOULD THINK THAT AFTER SELLING ONE HUNDRED MILLION COPIES OF HIS MYSTERY NOVELS, THEY COULD DISPENSE WITH THE INTRODUCTION!

THE WAYNE FOUNDATION'S BEEN KEEPING ME WORKING OVER-TIME LATELY.

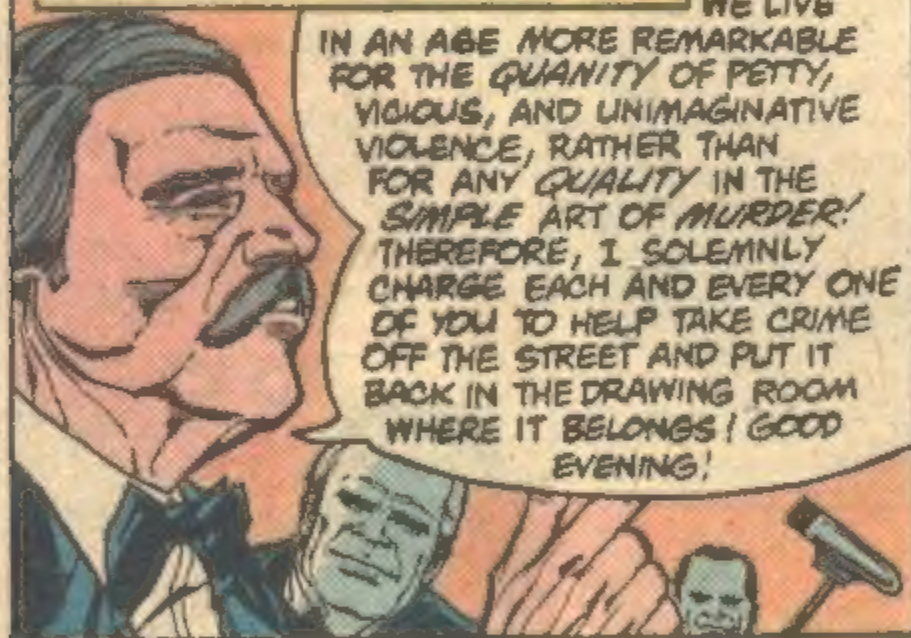
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRUCE, YOU LOOK TIRED!

AND SIX WEEKS OF NON-STOP NIGHTLY PATROLS AS BATMAN, WITH NO LET UP!



HUGH RUTHERFORD CREIGHTON, BRITAIN'S LITERARY MASTER OF REFINED MURDER, MESMERIZES HIS AUDIENCE WITH HIS OFF BEAT CHARM, HIS GALLONS HUMOR, AND LEAVES THEM WITH AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY OF AN HOUR WHEN TIME STOOD STILL!

WE LIVE IN AN AGE MORE REMARKABLE FOR THE QUANTITY OF PETTY, VICIOUS, AND UNIMAGINATIVE VIOLENCE, RATHER THAN FOR ANY QUALITY IN THE SIMPLE ART OF MURDER! THEREFORE, I SOLEMNLY CHARGE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO HELP TAKE CRIME OFF THE STREET AND PUT IT BACK IN THE DRAWING ROOM WHERE IT BELONGS! GOOD EVENING!



I DEAL WITH CRIME EVERY DAY OF MY WORKING LIFE AND WHERE DO I GO ON A FREE EVENING? TO HEAR HUGH CREIGHTON LECTURE ON CRIME AND DETECTIVE FICTION!

HE MAKES YOU FORGET YOU WERE TIRED AND DIDN'T FEEL LIKE COMING ORIGINALLY! FUNNY HOW A MAN WHO'S COMMITTED MURDER SO MANY TIMES ON PAPER CAN BE SO BELOVED!



DID YOU KNOW THAT MY PREDECESSOR, COMMISSIONER HARRIS, USED TO CONSULT WITH HIM ON DIFFICULT CASES? THAT IS, BEFORE BATMAN EMERGED ON THE SCENE!

BANG! BAM!

WHAT'S THAT RUCKUS?



SOUNDS OF A STRUGGLE COME FROM WITHIN THE ROOM THAT CREIGHTON ENTERED...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FRANK?

IT'S LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

SOMEONE GET THE CUSTODIAN!





BATMAN

AND

The Riddler



IT JUST ARRIVED!
THERE'S EVEN A SET
OF RULES WITH IT, LIKE
A MASS PRODUCED
GAME! THIS IS NO
JOKE, BATMAN!

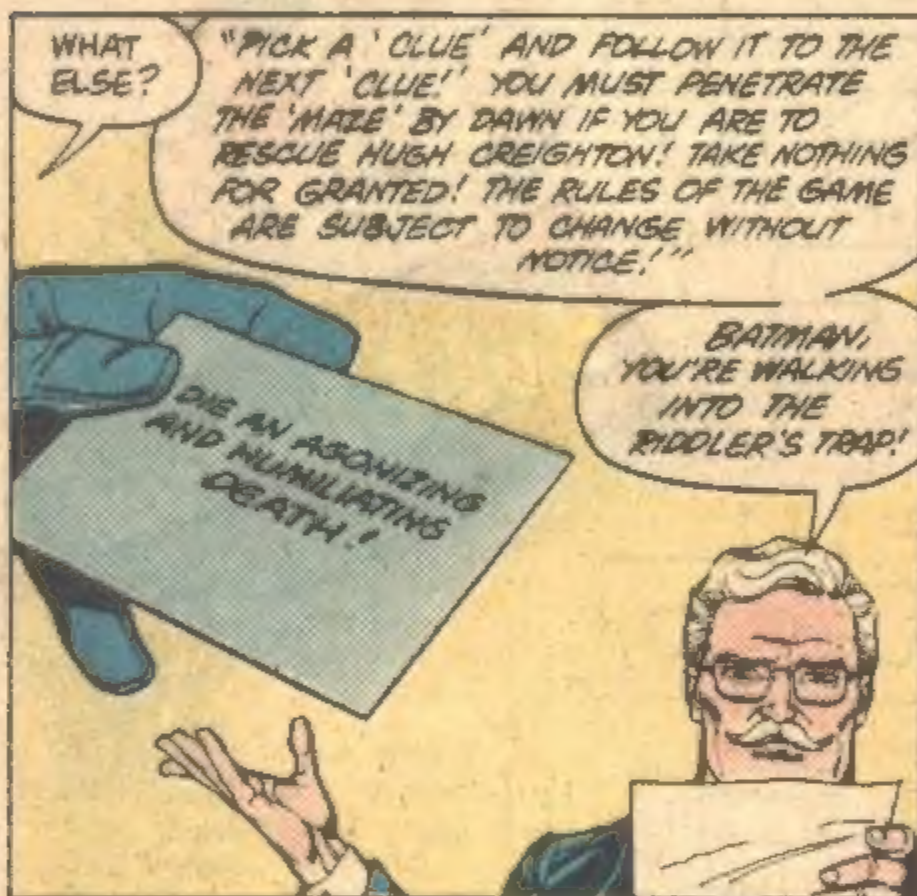
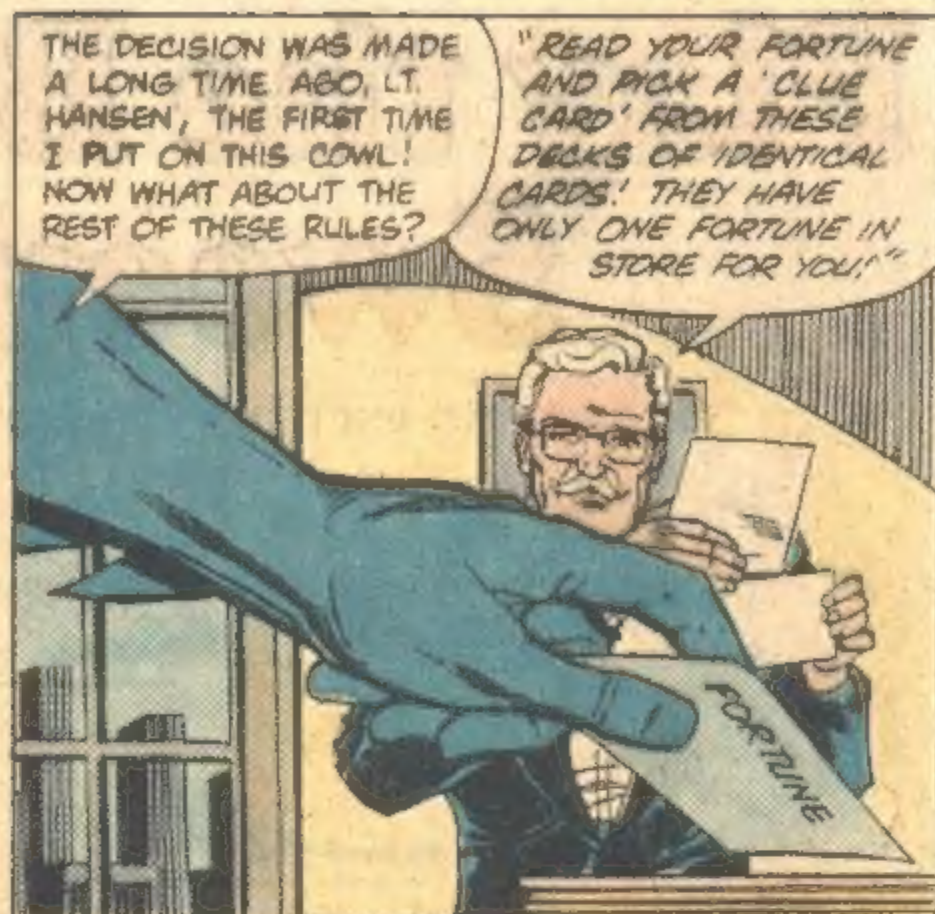
AND IT'S
CERTAINLY NO
GAME!

WHAT KIND
OF RULES,
COMMISSIONER?

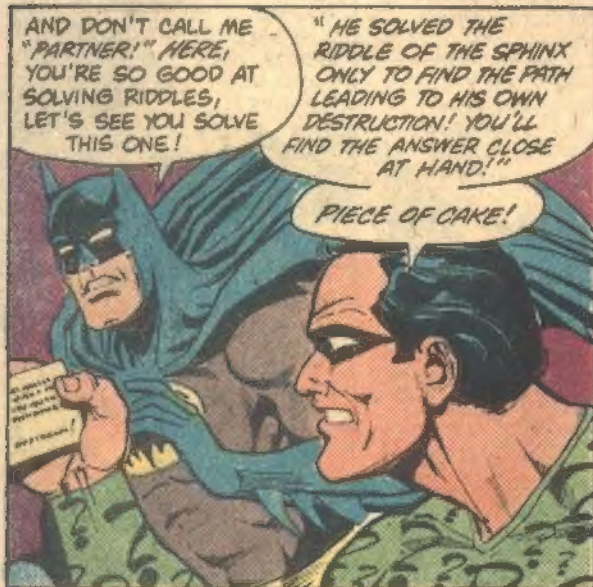
WRITER DON KRARR * PENCILS CARMINE INFANTINO * INKS MIKE DE CARLO * LETTERS JOHN COSTANZA * COLORS JERRY SERPE

4

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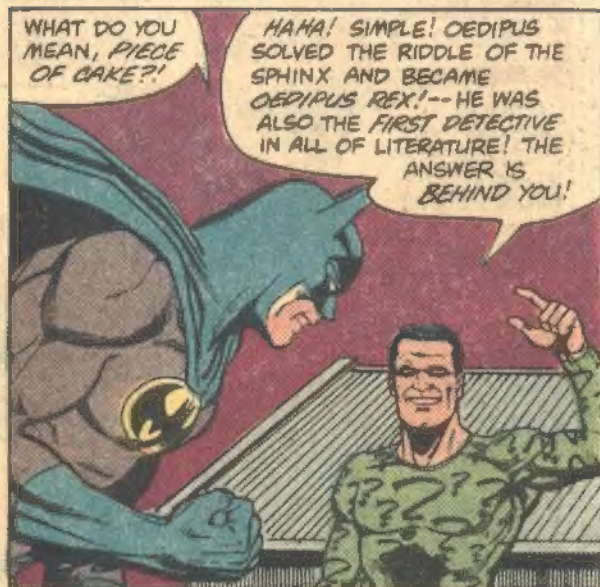




AND DON'T CALL ME "PARTNER!" HERE, YOU'RE SO GOOD AT SOLVING RIDDLES, LET'S SEE YOU SOLVE THIS ONE!

"HE SOLVED THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX ONLY TO FIND THE PATH LEADING TO HIS OWN DESTRUCTION! YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER CLOSE AT HAND!"

PIECE OF CAKE!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PIECE OF CAKE?!

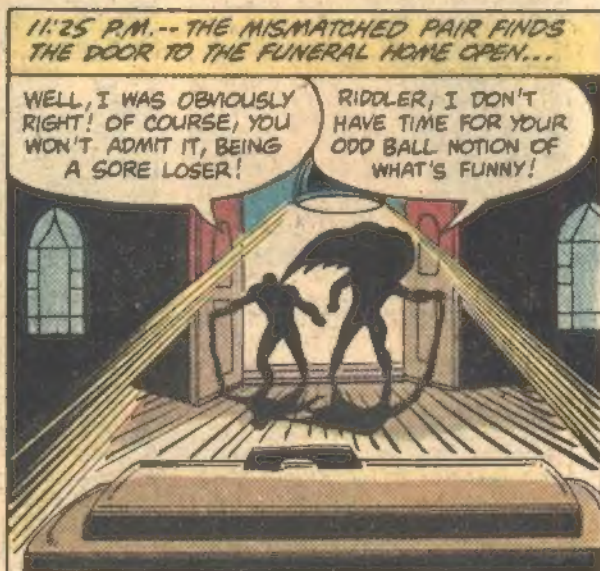
HAHA! SIMPLE! OEDIPUS SOLVED THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX AND BECAME OEDIPUS REX!-- HE WAS ALSO THE FIRST DETECTIVE IN ALL OF LITERATURE! THE ANSWER IS BEHIND YOU!



REX MEANS KING, AS IN KING'S FUNERAL HOME, NEXT TO FONG'S HAND LAUNDRY RIGHT HERE ON GRANDE AVE.! BOY YOU'RE SLOW! NO WONDER I'VE BEEN RUNNING YOU RAGGED FOR YEARS!

KEEP IT UP, RIDDLER, JUST KEEP IT UP! TOMORROW YOU'LL BE RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU BELONG!

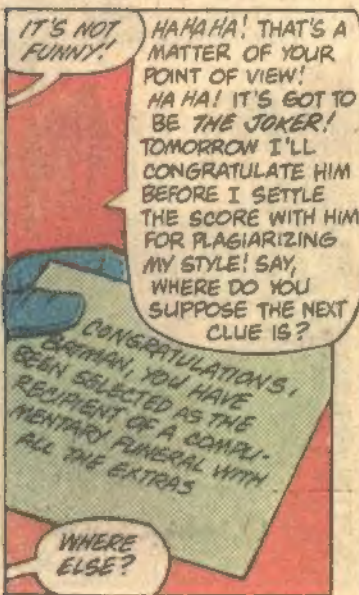
YEAH, DIGGING YOUR GRAVE!



11:25 P.M.-- THE MISMATCHED PAIR FINDS THE DOOR TO THE FUNERAL HOME OPEN...

WELL, I WAS OBVIOUSLY RIGHT! OF COURSE, YOU WON'T ADMIT IT, BEING A SORE LOSER!

RIDDLER, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR ODD BALL NOTION OF WHAT'S FUNNY!



IT'S NOT FUNNY!

HAHAHA! THAT'S A MATTER OF YOUR POINT OF VIEW! HA HA! IT'S GOT TO BE THE JOKER! TOMORROW I'LL CONGRATULATE HIM BEFORE I SETTLE THE SCORE WITH HIM FOR PLAGIARIZING MY STYLE! SAY, WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THE NEXT CLUE IS?

CONGRATULATIONS, BATMAN, YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS THE RECIPIENT OF A COMPLIMENTARY FUNERAL WITH ALL THE EXTRAS

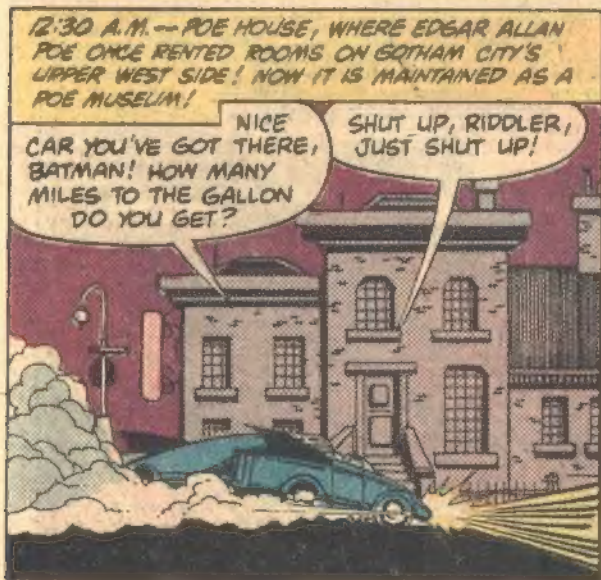
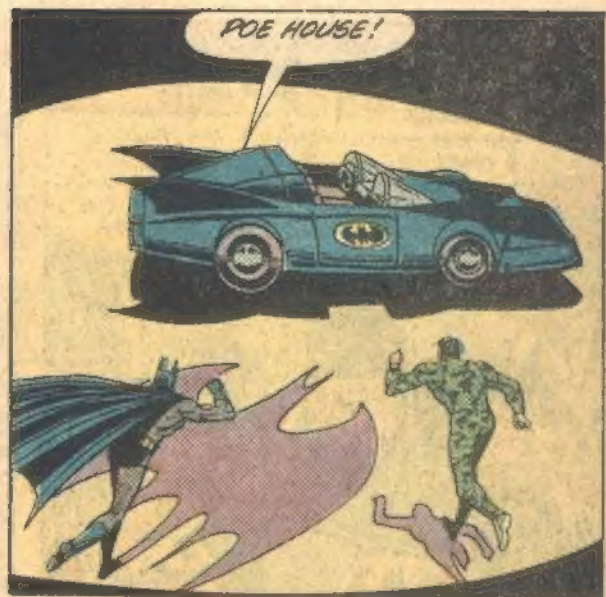
WHERE ELSE?



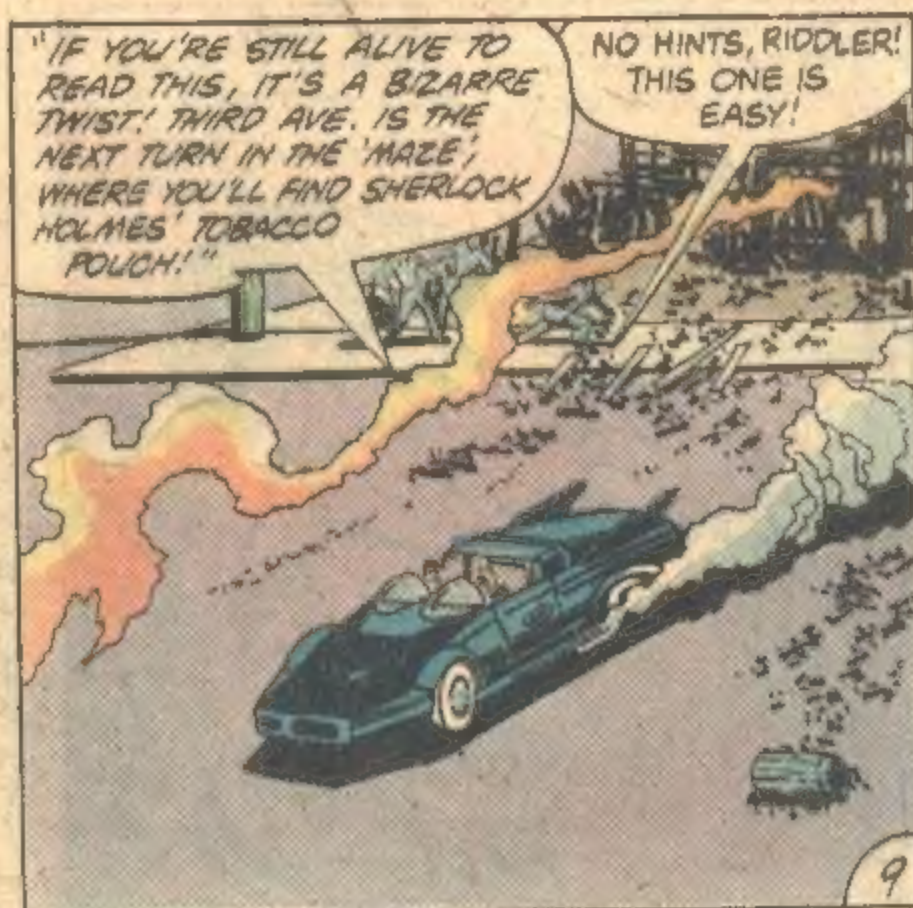
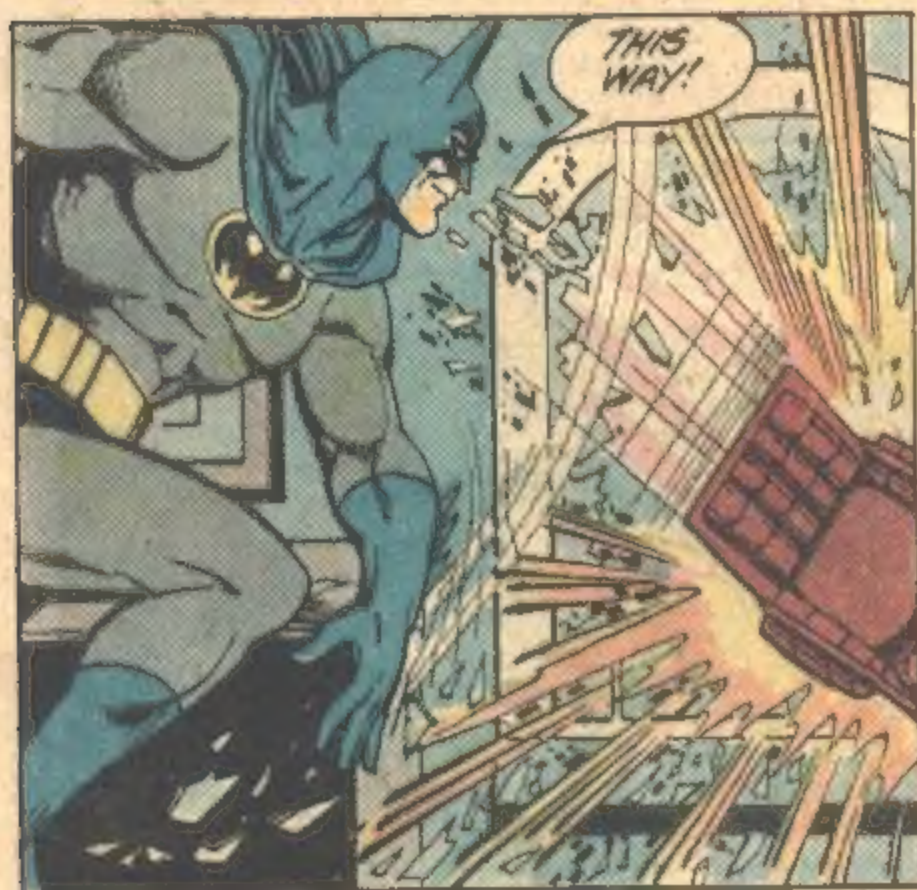
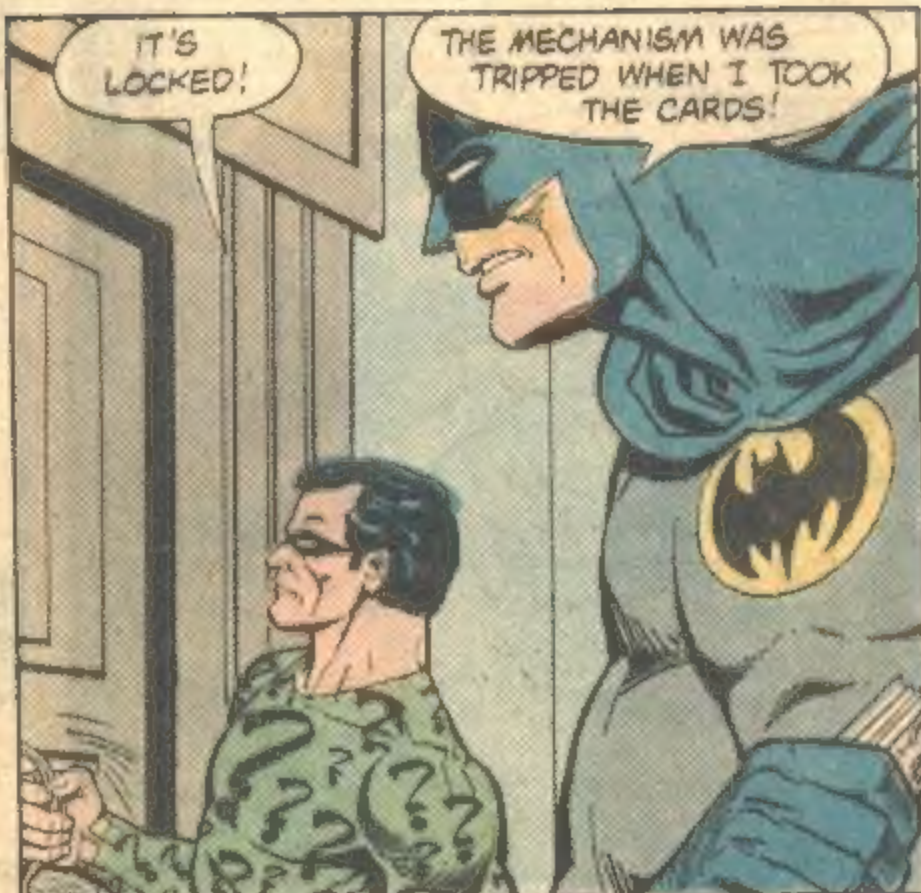
CHARMING! JUST THINK, BATMAN, THAT'S HOW YOU'LL LOOK IN A FEW YEARS!

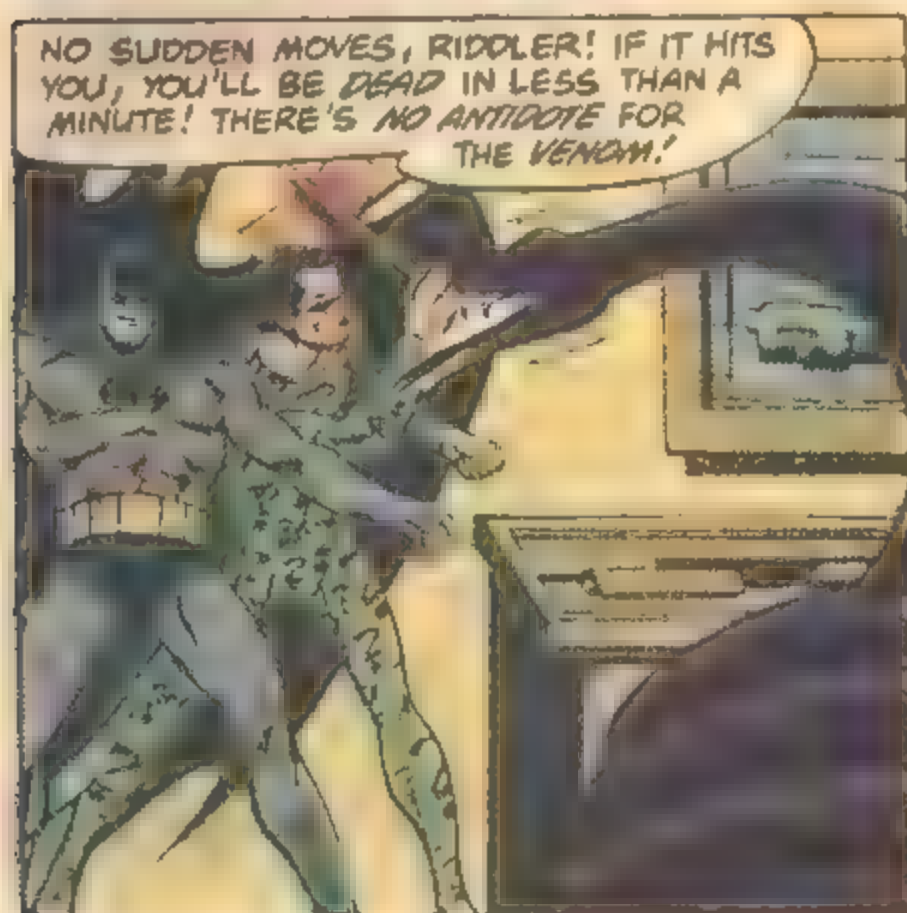
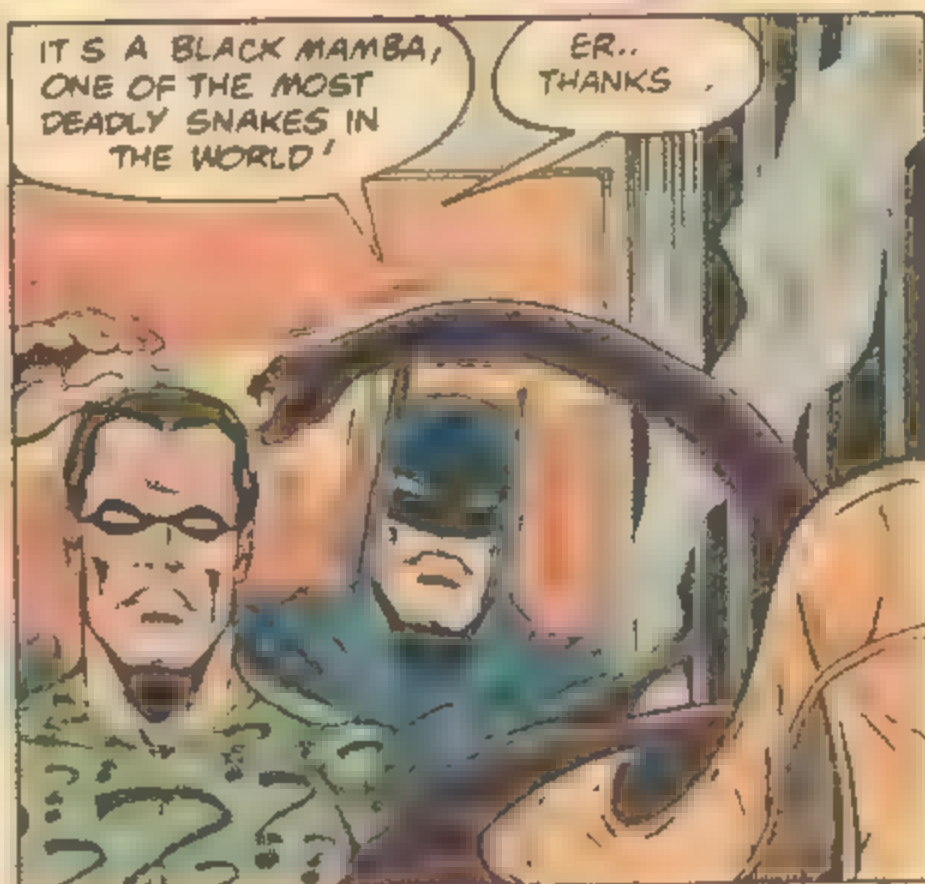
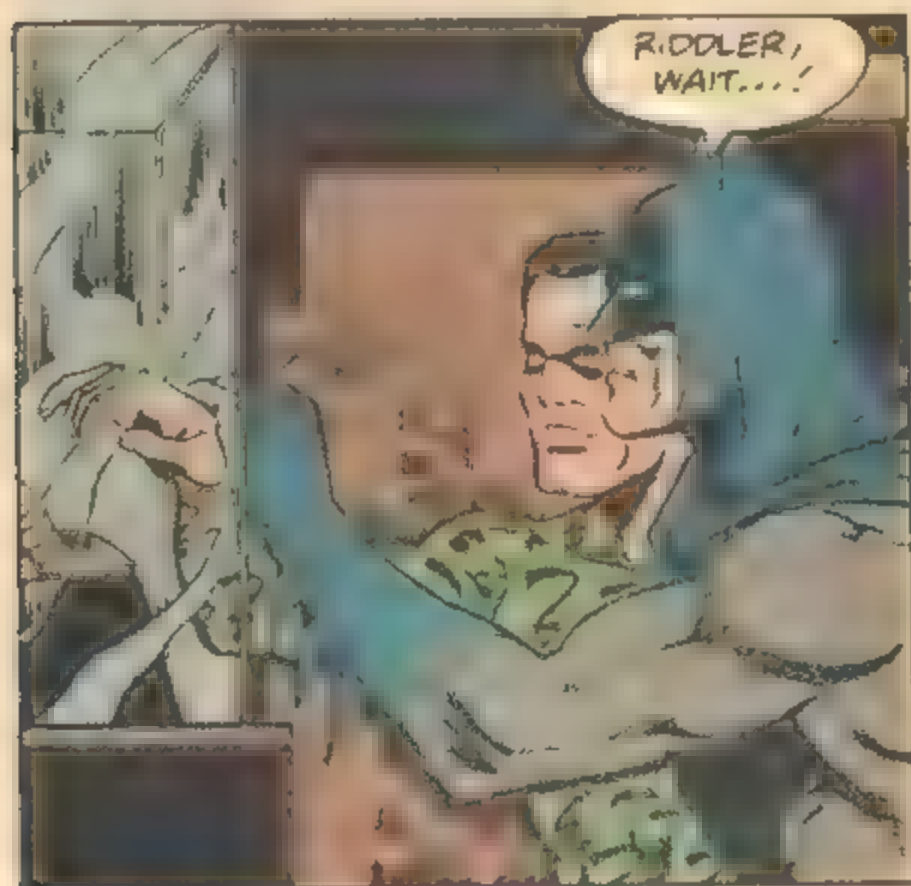
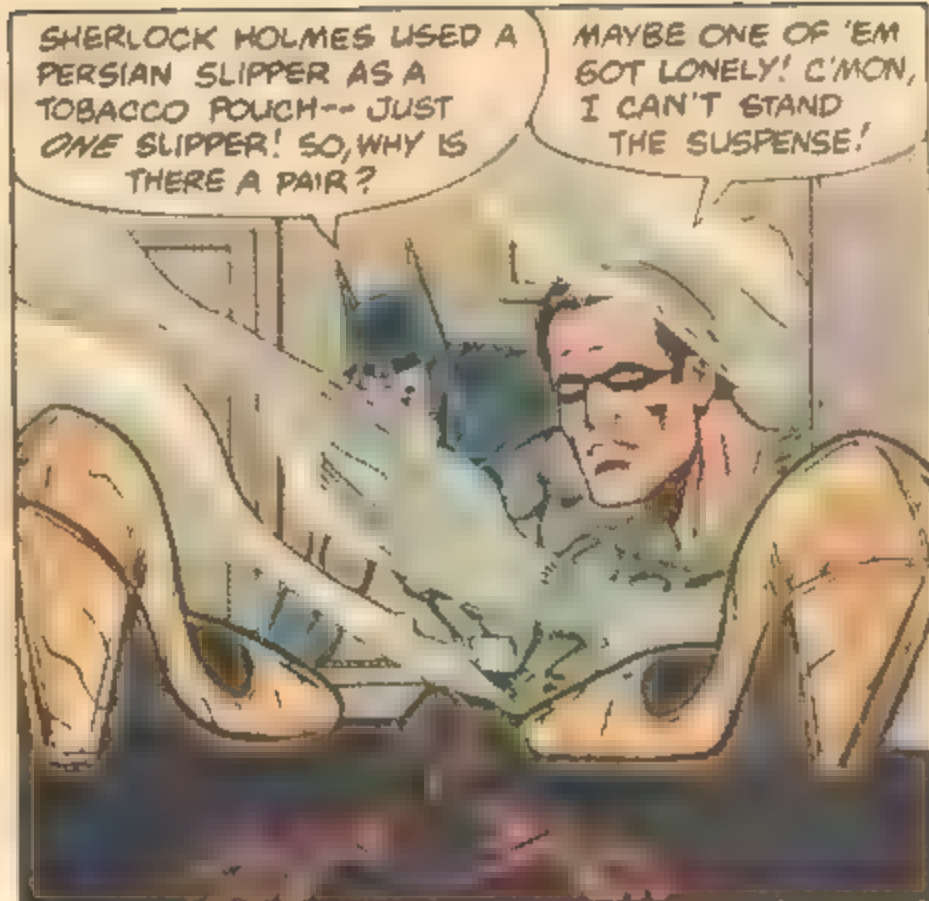
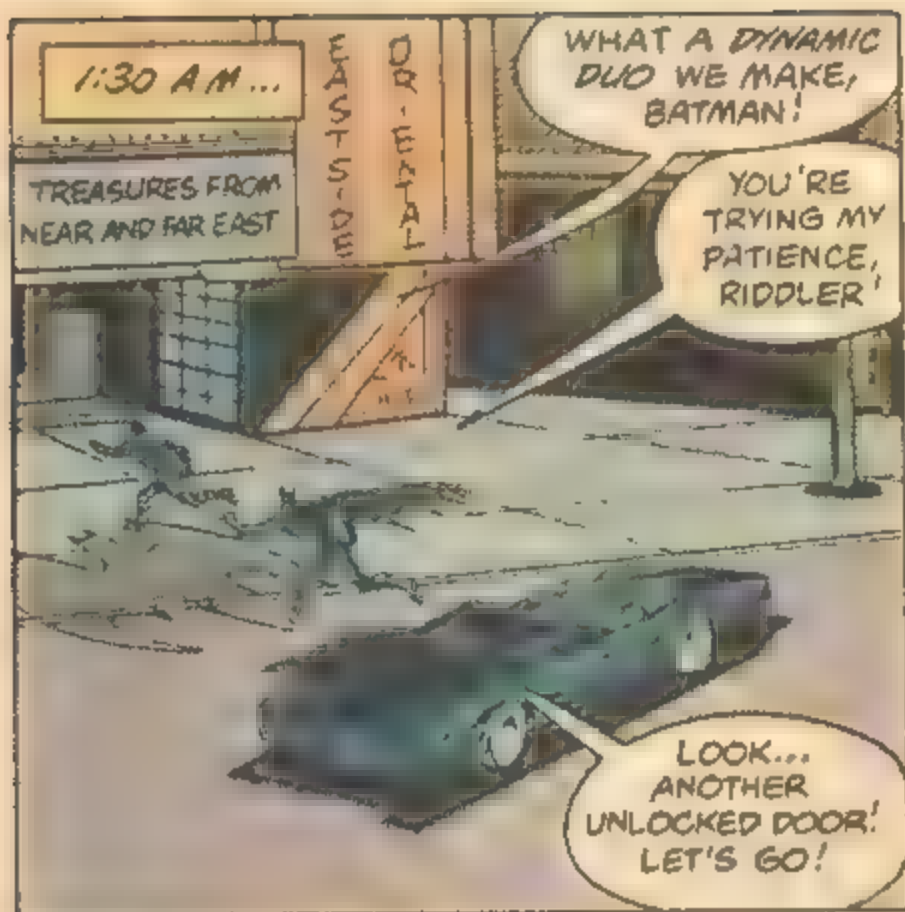
IF YOU DO SEE THE JOKER AGAIN, ASK HIM TO WRITE A FEW NEW JOKES FOR YOU! YOUR MATERIAL'S GROWING AWFULLY STALE!

BANG! YOU'RE DEAD



AS BATMAN REMOVES THE NEXT DECK OF CARDS FROM THE RAVEN'S BEAK, HIS ATTENTION IS ARRESTED BY A DISCONCERTING SOUND!



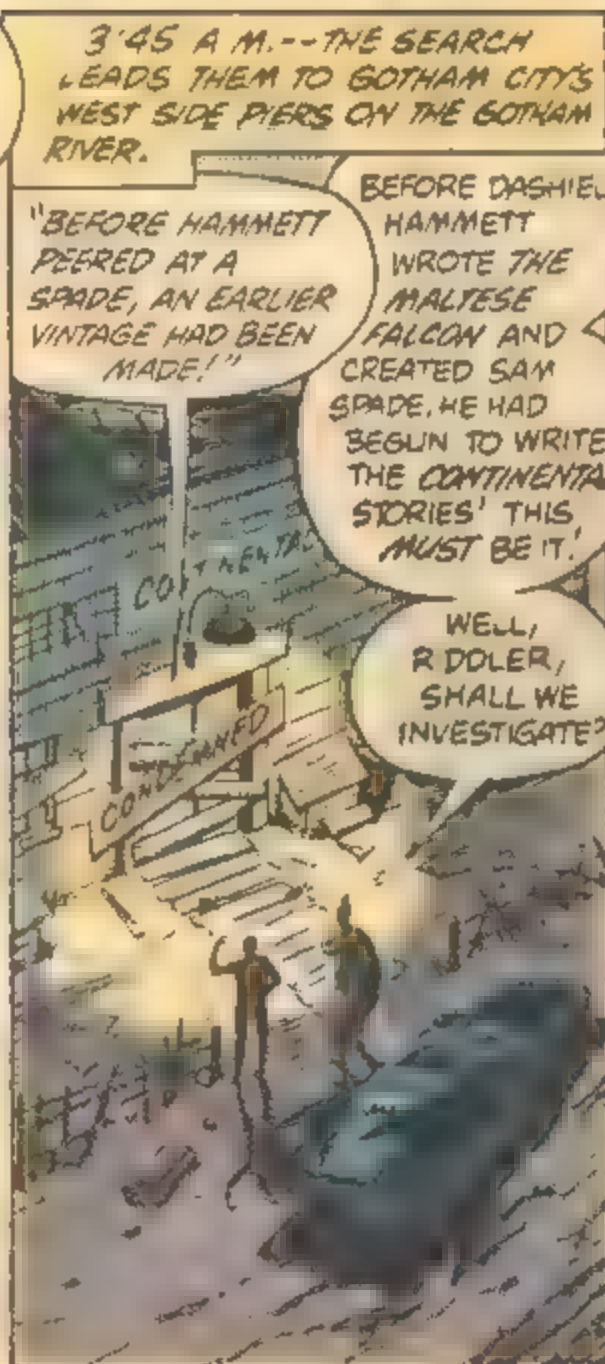




IT'S DEAD!
YOU ALMOST
GOT ME
KILLED,
TOO!

THAT'S THE OBJECT
OF THE GAME,
BATMAN! OR HAD
YOU FORGOTTEN?
AT ANY RATE,
I WANT TO BE
THERE FOR THE
FINISH...

...TO WATCH
YOU DIE!



3:45 A.M.--THE SEARCH
LEADS THEM TO GOTHAM CITY'S
WEST SIDE PIERS ON THE GOTHAM
RIVER.

"BEFORE HAMMETT
PEERED AT A
SPADE, AN EARLIER
VINTAGE HAD BEEN
MADE!"

BEFORE DASHIELL
HAMMETT
WROTE THE
MALTESE
FALCON AND
CREATED SAM
SPADE, HE HAD
BEGUN TO WRITE
THE *CONTINENTAL*
STORIES! THIS
MUST BE IT!

WELL,
RDOLER,
SHALL WE
INVESTIGATE?



STEP ASIDE,
BATMAN, AND
I'LL BLOW
THE DOOR!

HUM?



THAT'S
ONE OF MY
INCENDIARY
DEVICES!



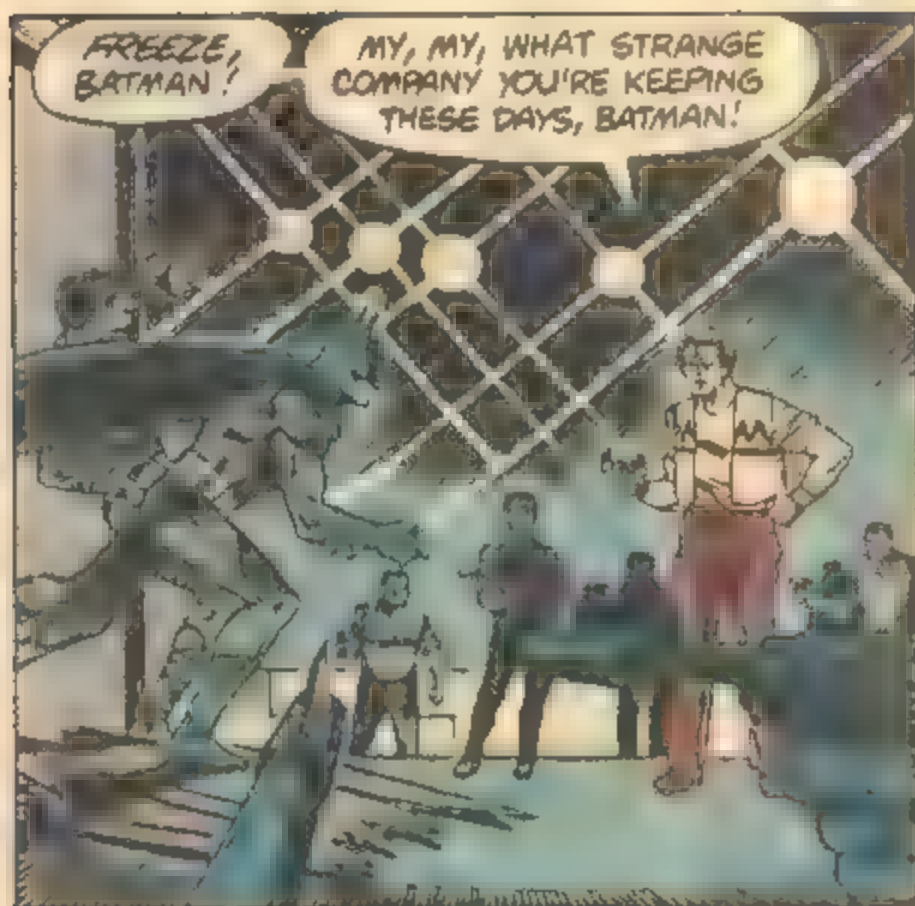
WHERE DID
YOU GET
THAT?

IN THE SECRET
COMPARTMENT IN
YOUR CAR THAT
HAS A COMBINATION
LOCK ON IT! I COULDN'T
RESIST TRYING TO
SOLVE THAT LITTLE
PUZZLE!



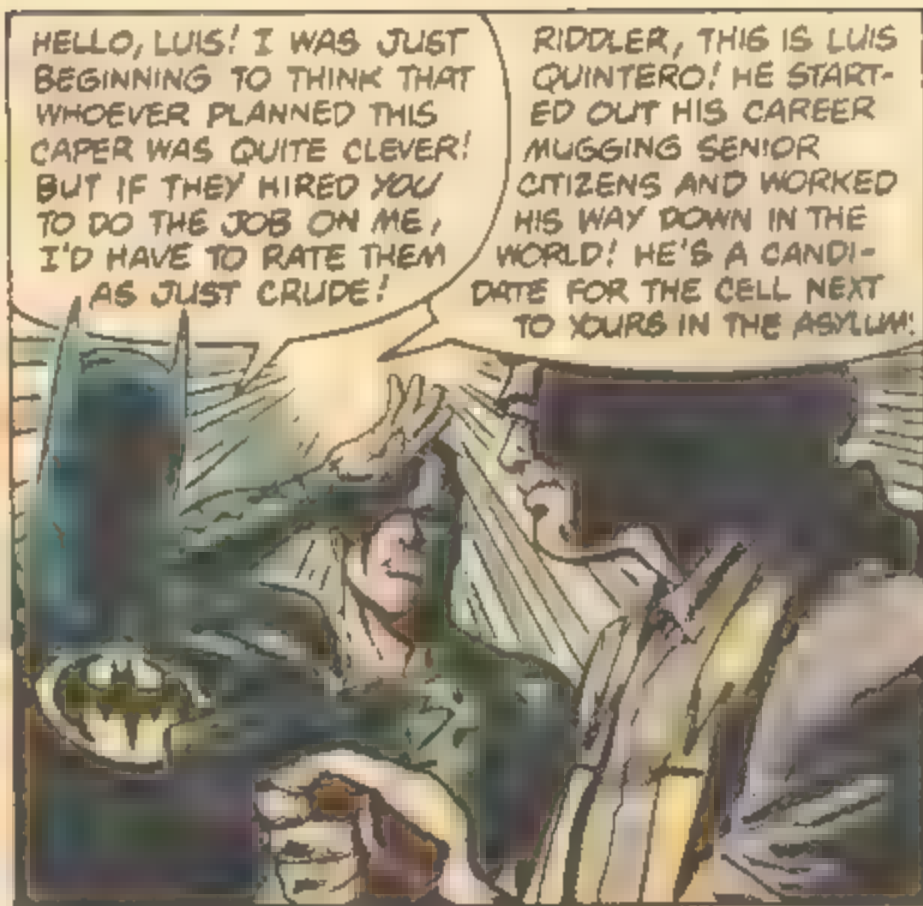
NOT EASY WITH
YOU WATCHING
ME LIKE A HAWK,
MR. CAPED
CRUSADER! YOU
GOTTA ADMIT
THAT I'M
PRETTY
GOOD!

SOME
PEOPLE
NEED A
GIMMICK
FOR EVERY-
THING!



FREEZE, BATMAN!

MY, MY, WHAT STRANGE COMPANY YOU'RE KEEPING THESE DAYS, BATMAN!



HELLO, LUIS! I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO THINK THAT WHOEVER PLANNED THIS CAPER WAS QUITE CLEVER! BUT IF THEY HIRED YOU TO DO THE JOB ON ME, I'D HAVE TO RATE THEM AS JUST CRUDE!

RIDDLER, THIS IS LUIS QUINTERO! HE STARTED OUT HIS CAREER MUGGING SENIOR CITIZENS AND WORKED HIS WAY DOWN IN THE WORLD! HE'S A CANDIDATE FOR THE CELL NEXT TO YOURS IN THE ASYLUM!



ENOUGH, BATMAN! NOW, I WANT TO SEE YOU BEG ME NOT TO SQUEEZE THIS TRIGGER! BEG!

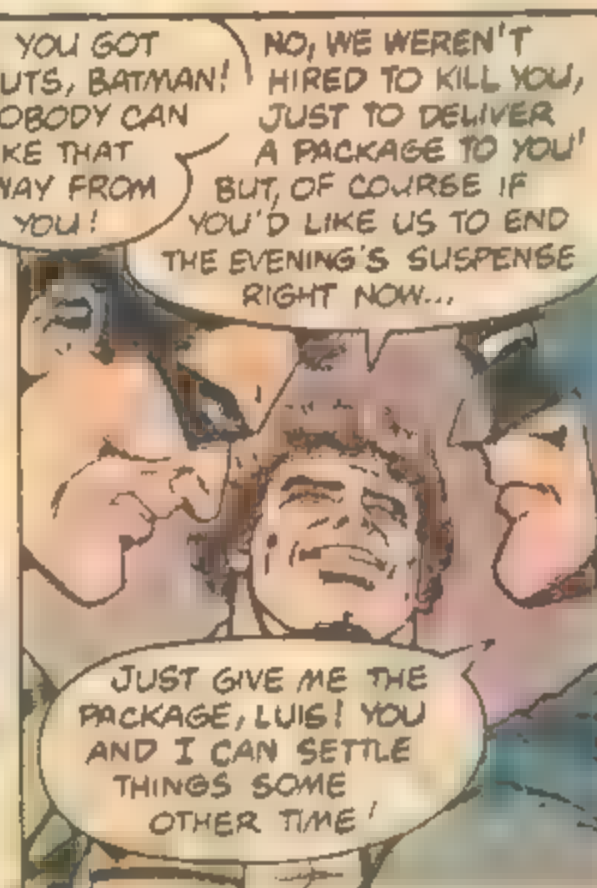
I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL FIRST, LUIS!

IF THIS IS THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE, I'LL TELL YOU IT'S QUITE A DIS-APPOINTMENT!



HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BATMAN!

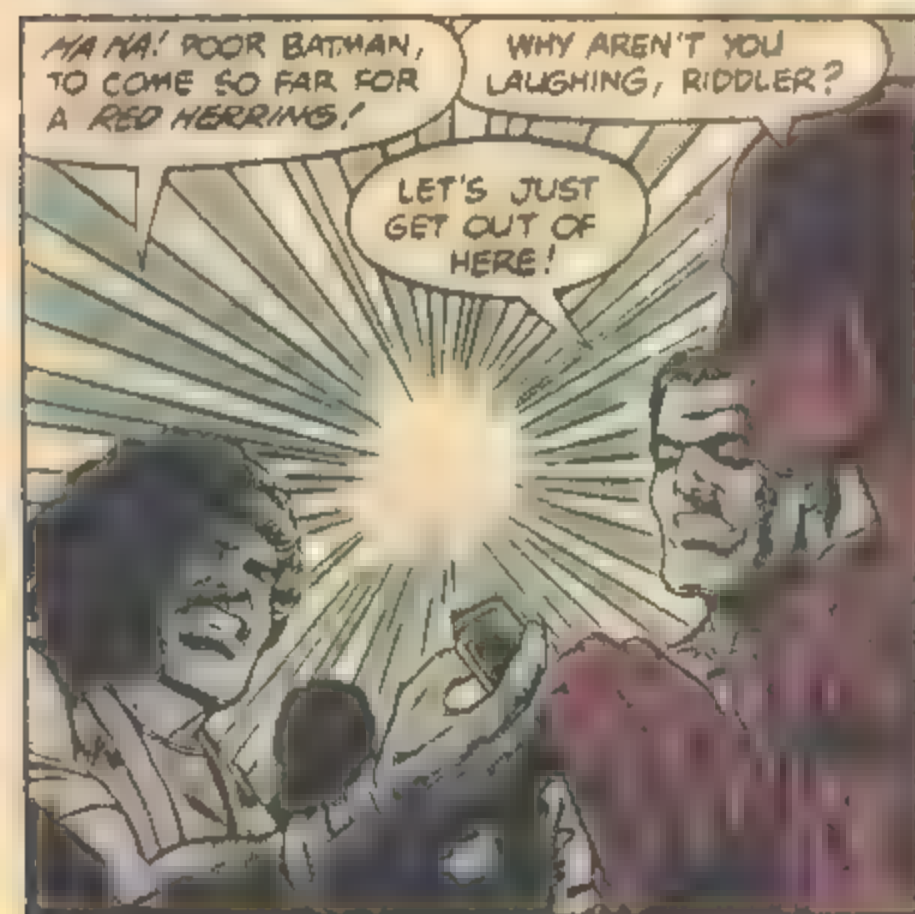
CLICK!



YOU GOT GUTS, BATMAN! NOBODY CAN TAKE THAT AWAY FROM YOU!

NO, WE WEREN'T HIRED TO KILL YOU, JUST TO DELIVER A PACKAGE TO YOU! BUT, OF COURSE IF YOU'D LIKE US TO END THE EVENING'S SUSPENSE RIGHT NOW...

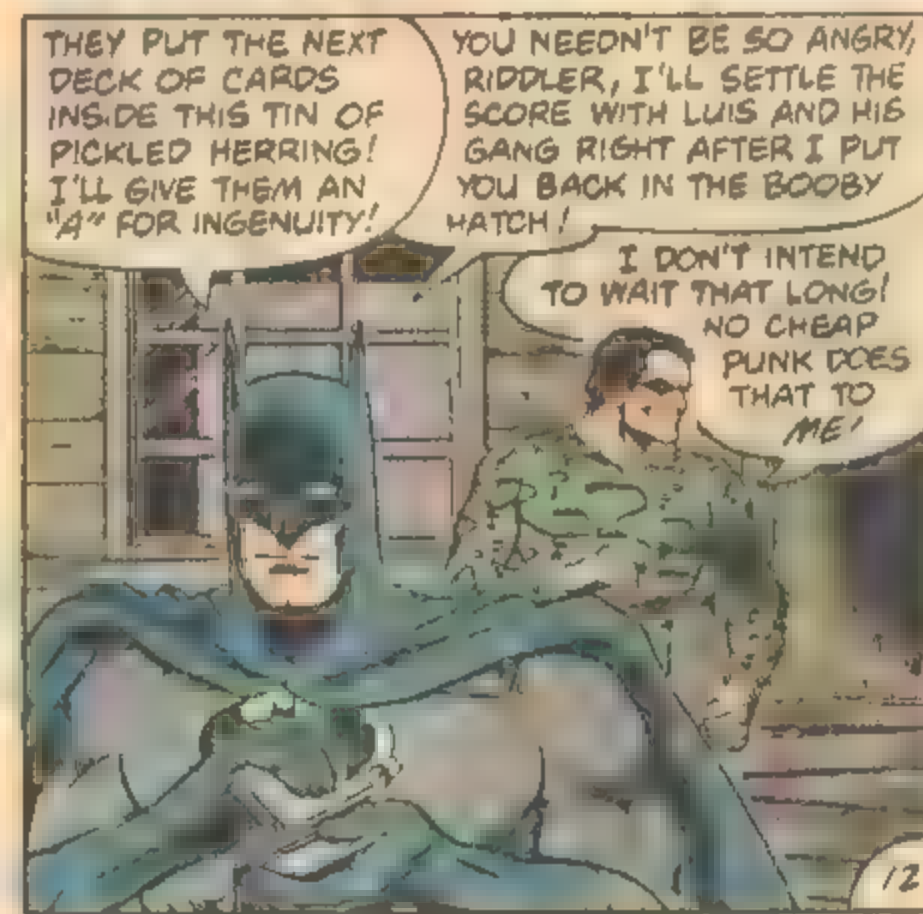
JUST GIVE ME THE PACKAGE, LUIS! YOU AND I CAN SETTLE THINGS SOME OTHER TIME!



HA HA! POOR BATMAN, TO COME SO FAR FOR A RED HERRING!

WHY AREN'T YOU LAUGHING, RIDDLER?

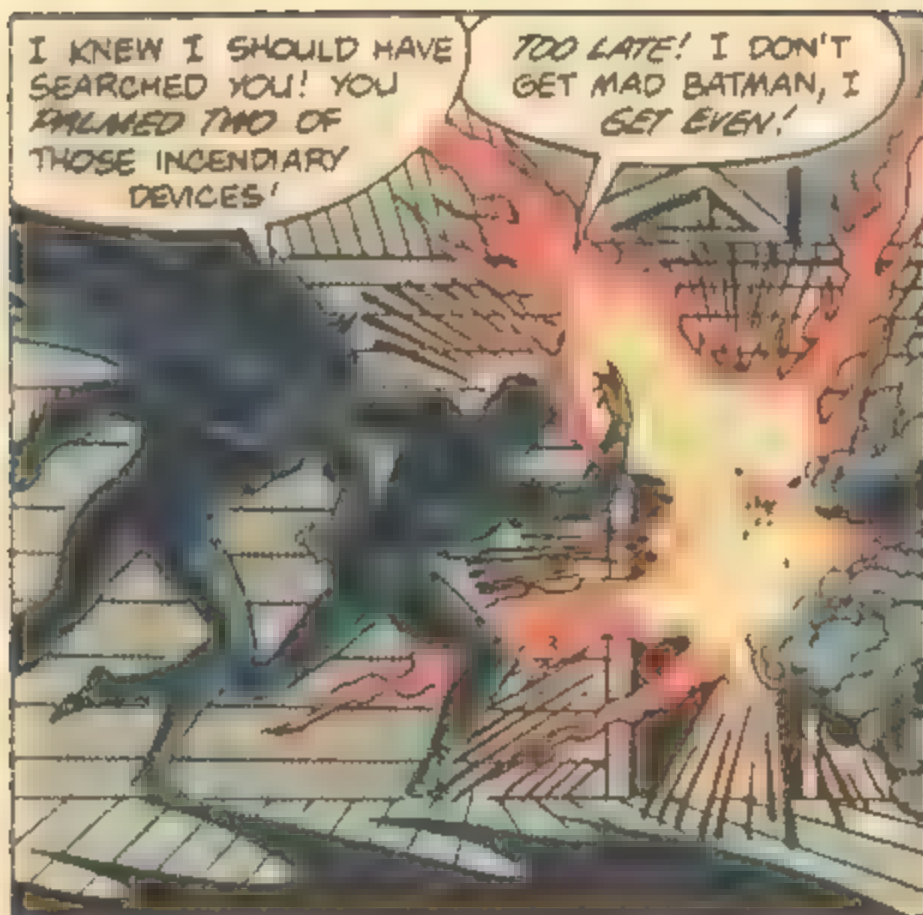
LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE!



THEY PUT THE NEXT DECK OF CARDS INSIDE THIS TIN OF PICKLED HERRING! I'LL GIVE THEM AN "A" FOR INGENUITY!

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO ANGRY, RIDDLER, I'LL SETTLE THE SCORE WITH LUIS AND HIS GANG RIGHT AFTER I PUT YOU BACK IN THE BOOBY HATCH!

I DON'T INTEND TO WAIT THAT LONG! NO CHEAP PUNK DOES THAT TO ME!



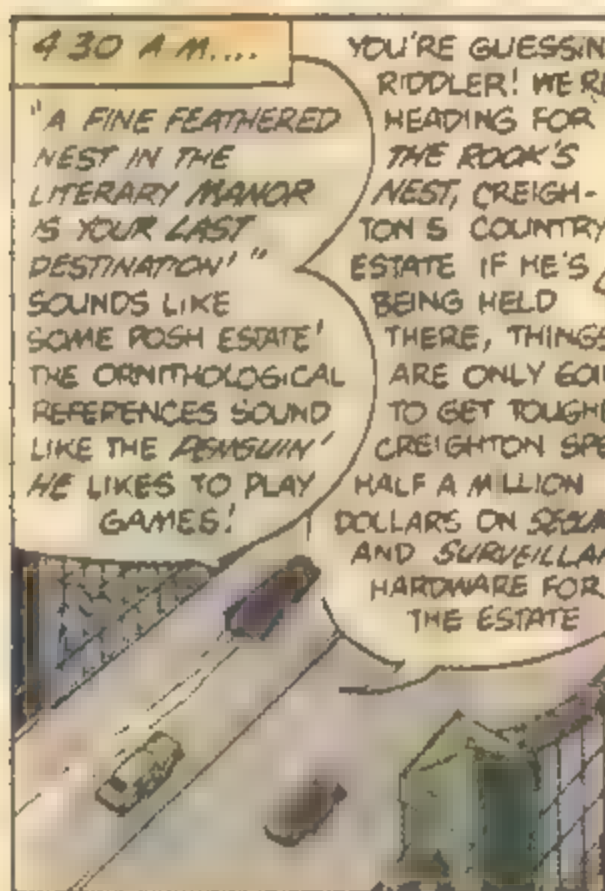
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE SEARCHED YOU! YOU PALMED TWO OF THOSE INCENDIARY DEVICES!

TOO LATE! I DON'T GET MAD BATMAN, I GET EVEN!



IF I HAD THE TIME, I'D TAKE YOU BACK TO PRISON, RIGHT NOW! NOW BEHAVE YOURSELF, OR I'LL LOCK YOU IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR! YOU HEAR ME!

I HEAR YOU! BUT YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN ALL THE SKILL YOU'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE PENITENTIARY! YOU HEAR ME?!



4:30 A.M....

"A FINE FEATHERED NEST IN THE LITERARY MANOR IS YOUR LAST DESTINATION!" SOUNDS LIKE SOME POSH ESTATE! THE ORNITHOLOGICAL REFERENCES SOUND LIKE THE RIDDLER! HE LIKES TO PLAY GAMES!

YOU'RE GUESSING, RIDDLER! WE'RE HEADING FOR THE ROOK'S NEST, CREIGHTON'S COUNTRY ESTATE IF HE'S BEING HELD THERE, THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET TOUGHER! CREIGHTON SPENT HALF A MILLION DOLLARS ON SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE HARDWARE FOR THE ESTATE



5:35 A.M....

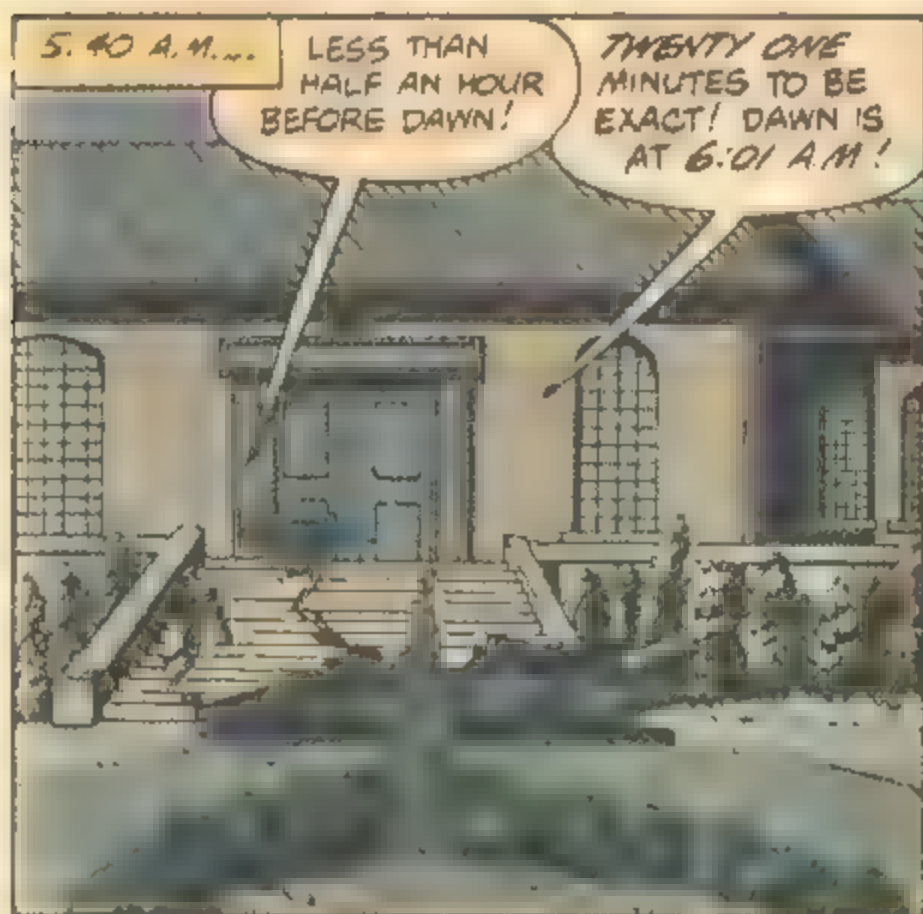
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE EXPECTED!

ALL RIGHT, RIDDLER, YOU CAN GET OUT NOW!

NOT A CHANCE! I'M GONNA SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END! YOU KNOW HOW I AM ABOUT PUZZLES! I LIVE FOR THEM!



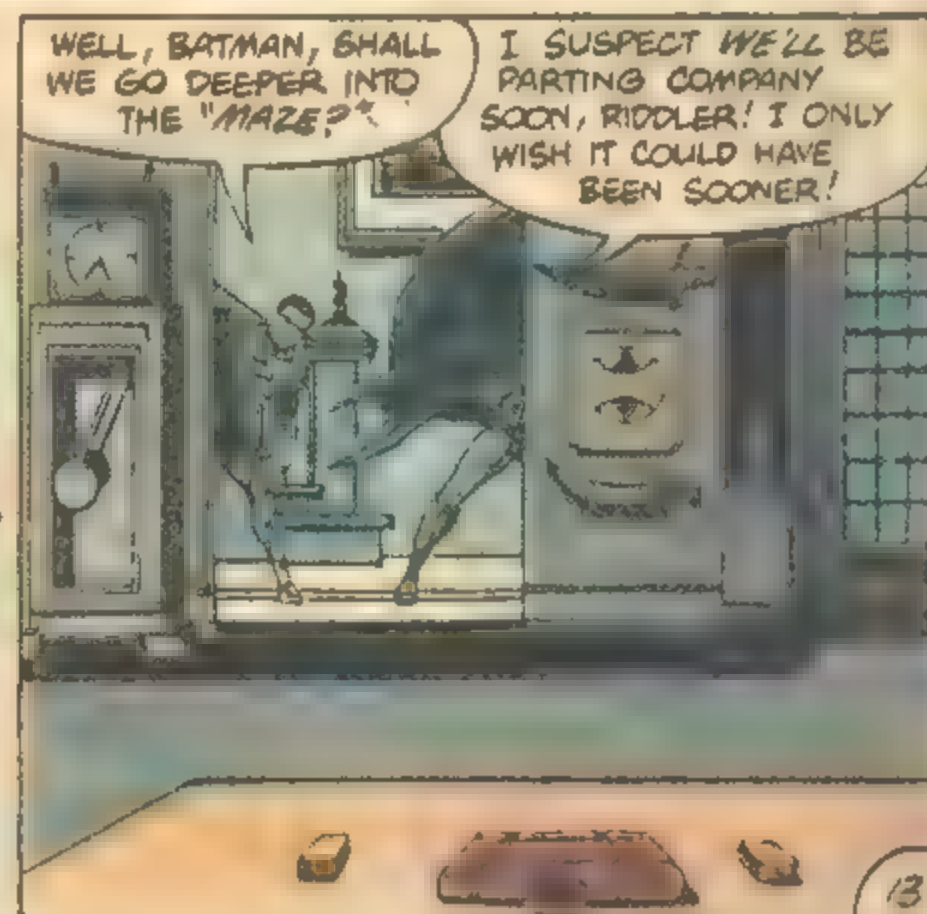
OKAY, BUT JUST REMEMBER, IT COULD BE YOUR FUNERAL TOO!



5:40 A.M....

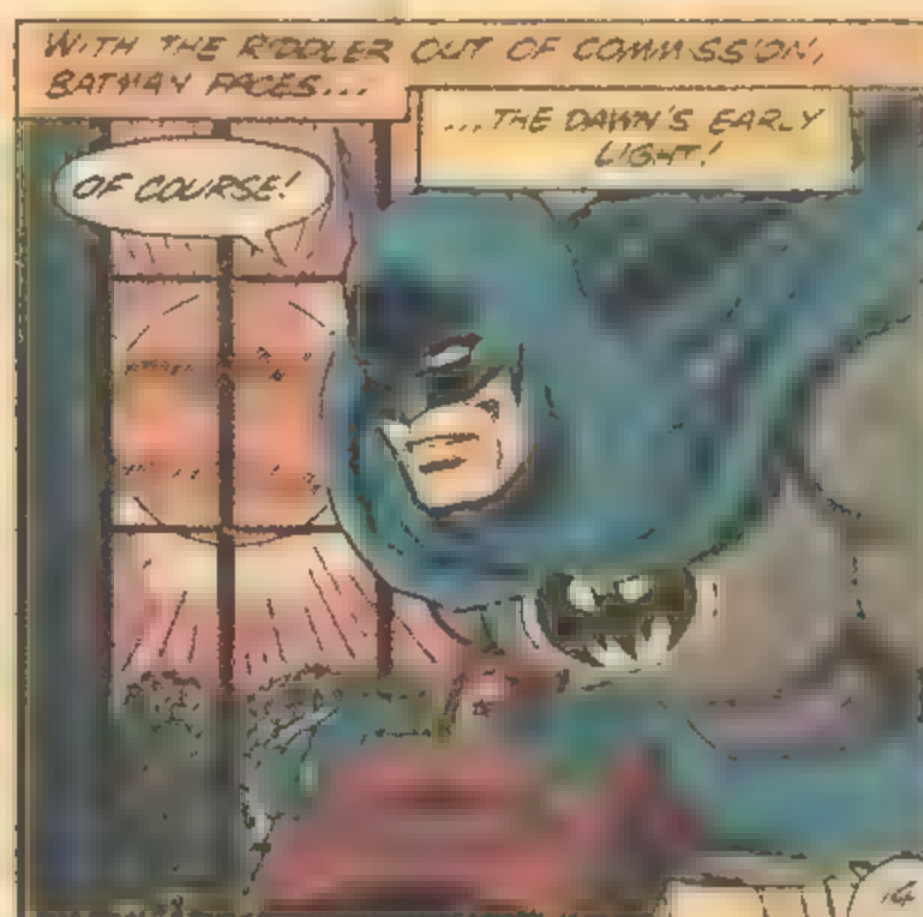
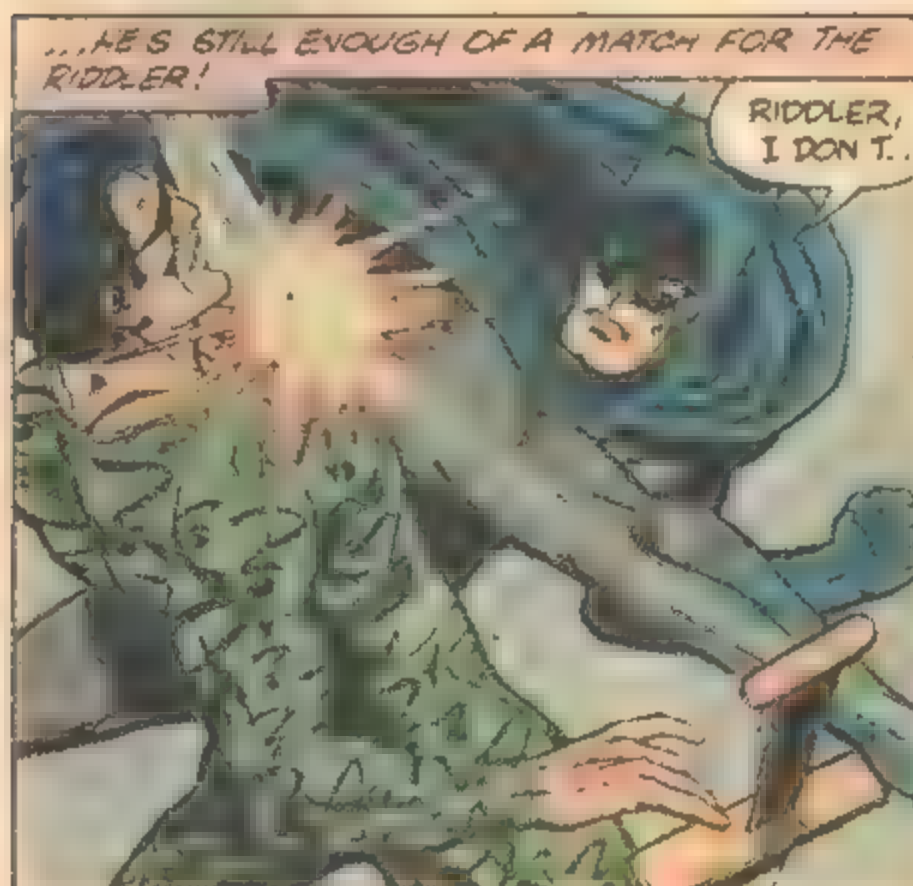
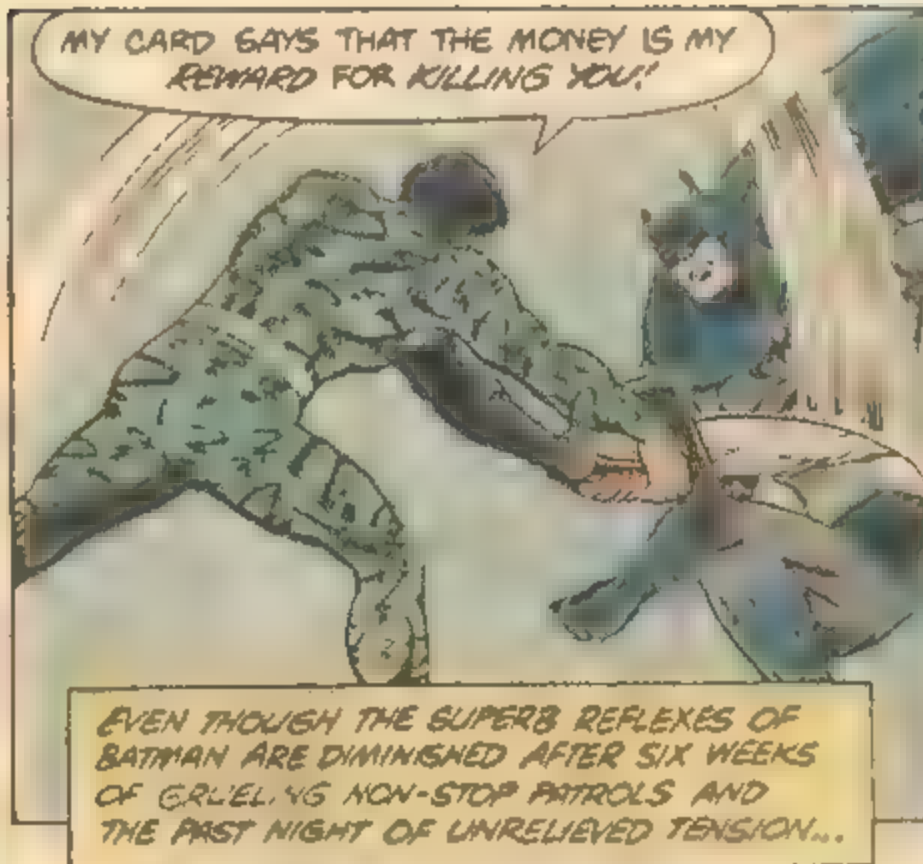
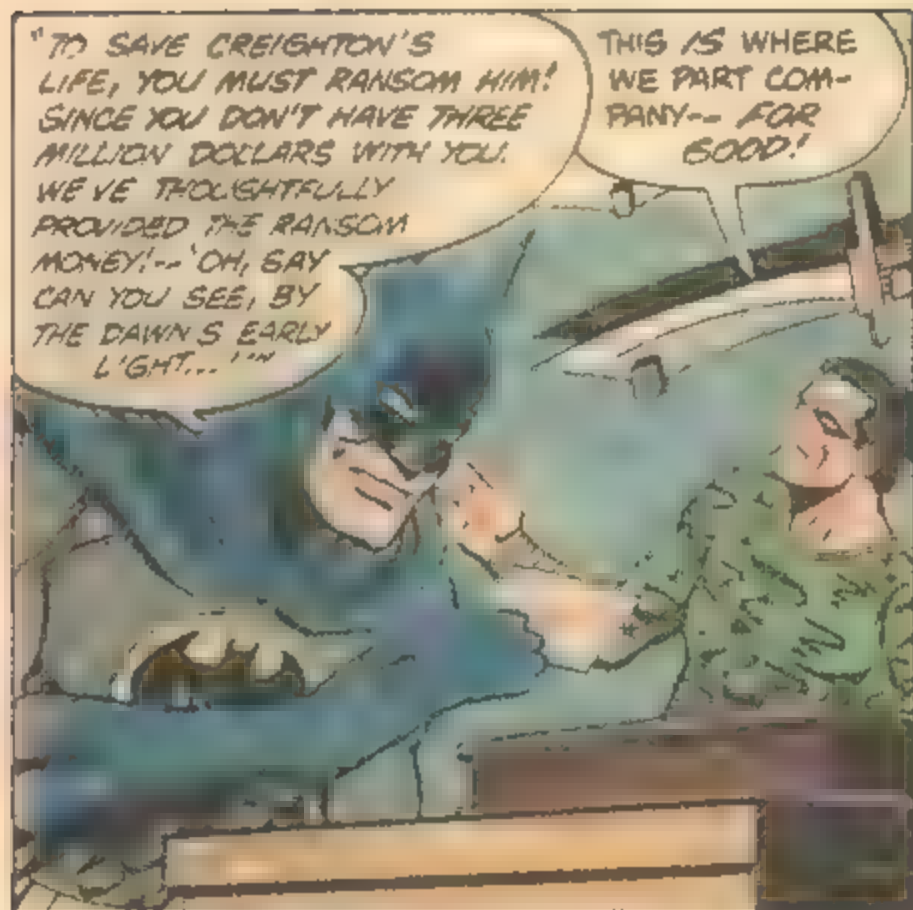
LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN!

TWENTY ONE MINUTES TO BE EXACT! DAWN IS AT 6:01 A.M.!



WELL, BATMAN, SHALL WE GO DEEPER INTO THE "MAZE?"

I SUSPECT WE'LL BE PARTING COMPANY SOON, RIDDLER! I ONLY WISH IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOONER!



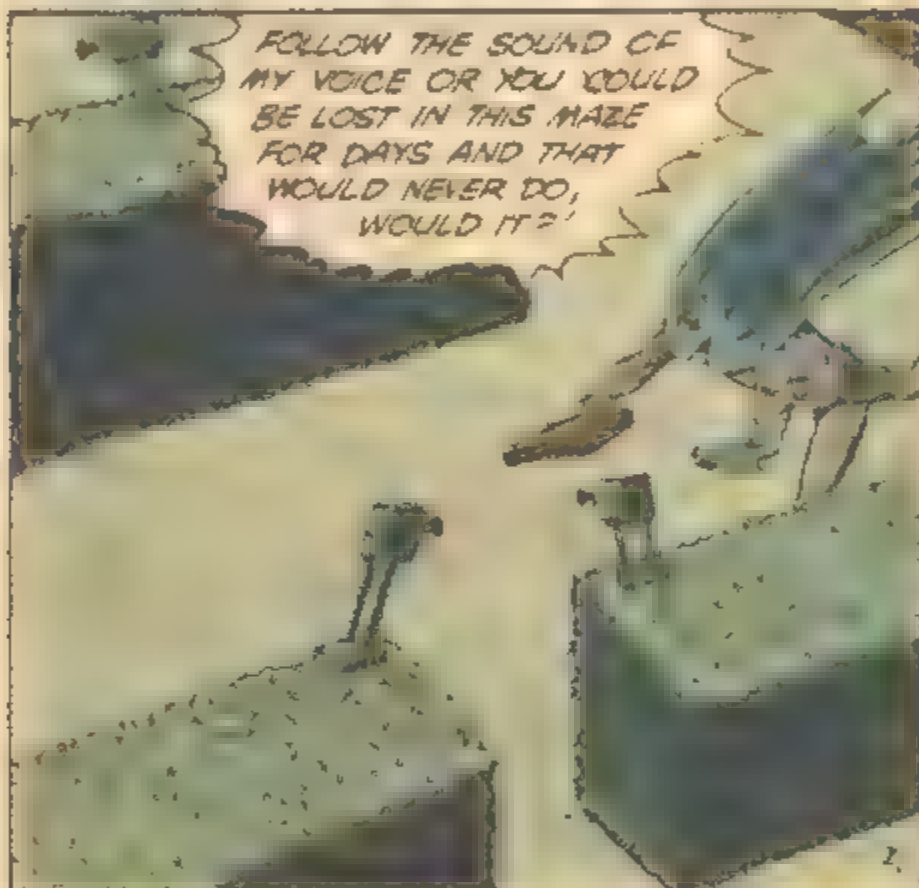


AS BATMAN ENTERS THE HEDGEROW MAZE, IT IS CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE IT! ONCE AGAIN HE HEARS THE MUFFLED, UN-RECOGNIZABLE VOICE!

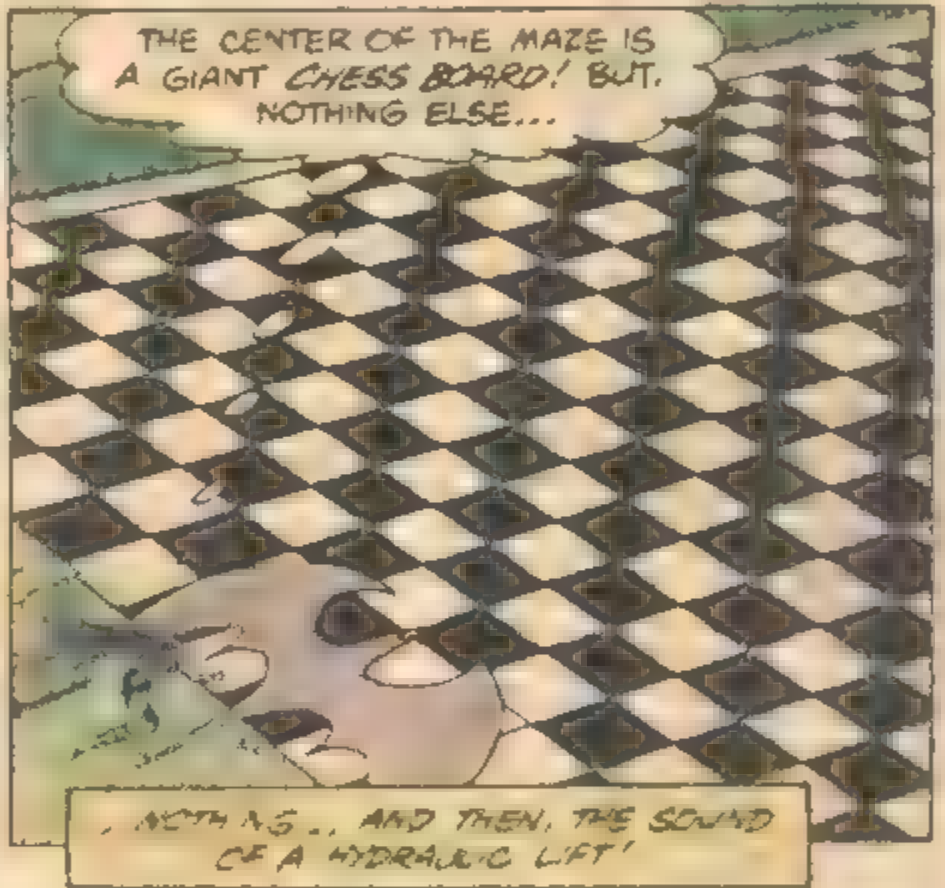


WELCOME, BATMAN, TO THE LAST ROUND OF OUR GAME! SOON YOU'LL RECEIVE THE COUP DE GRACE*!

* FRENCH FOR "FINISHING STRIKE"

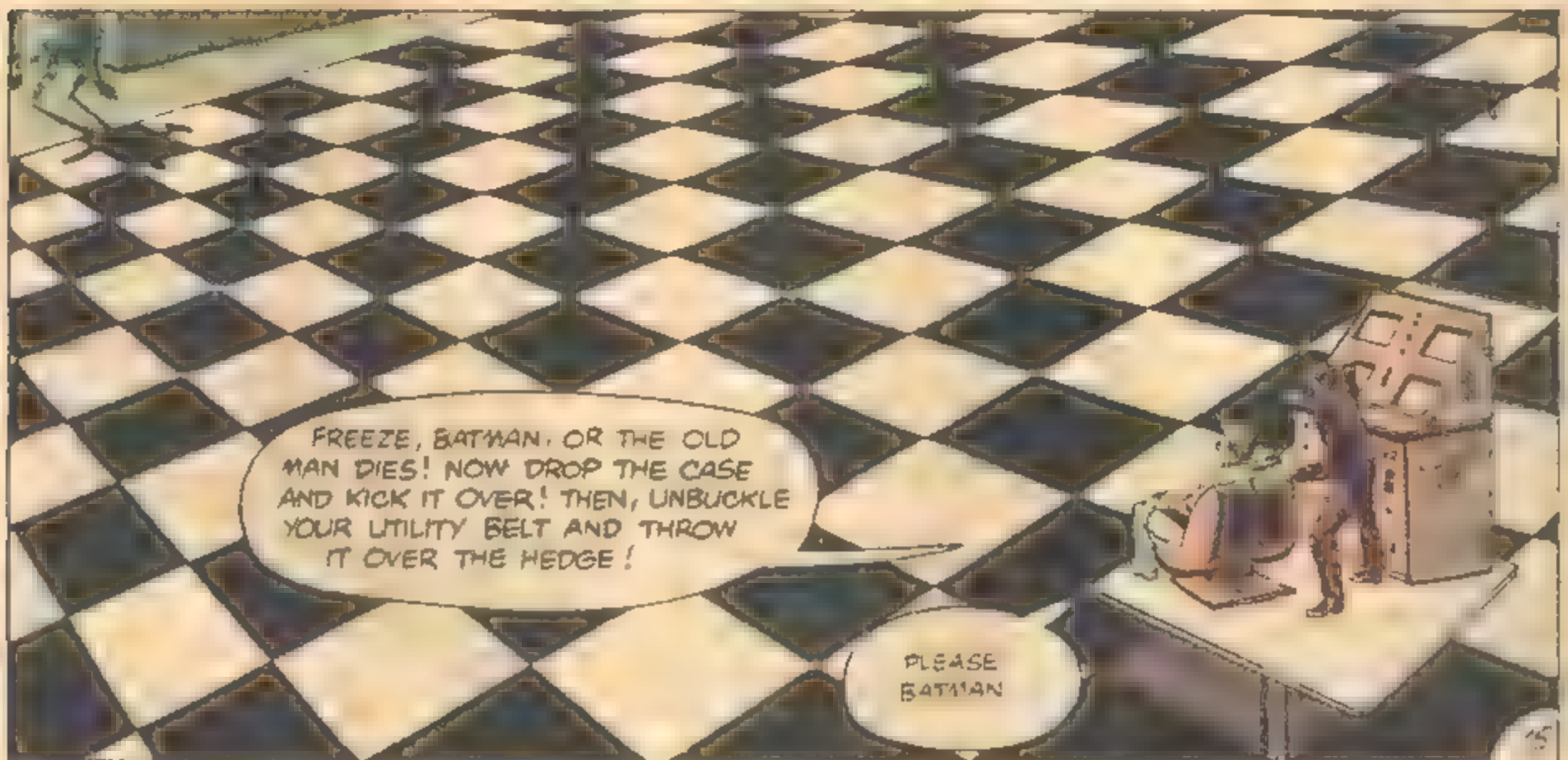


FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE OR YOU COULD BE LOST IN THIS MAZE FOR DAYS AND THAT WOULD NEVER DO, WOULD IT?



THE CENTER OF THE MAZE IS A GIANT CHESS BOARD! BUT, NOTHING ELSE...

NOTHING... AND THEN, THE SOUND OF A HYDRAULIC LIFT!



FREEZE, BATMAN. OR THE OLD MAN DIES! NOW DROP THE CASE AND KICK IT OVER! THEN, UNBUCKLE YOUR UTILITY BELT AND THROW IT OVER THE HEDGE!

PLEASE
BATMAN



KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM OR I'LL KILL HIM!

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY! DON'T HURT HIM!



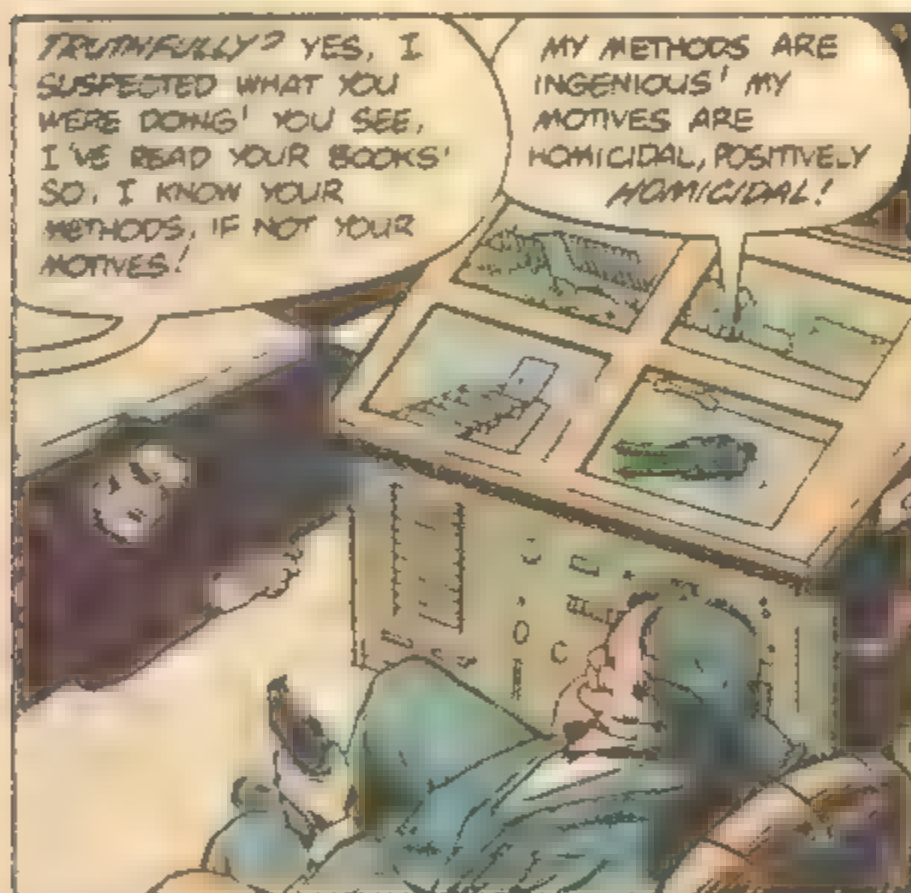
HA, HA, HA! THAT'S VERY GOOD, BATMAN!

MILO, YOU CAN GO AND DISPOSE OF THE RIDDLER!

TRUTHFULLY, BATMAN, DID YOU SUSPECT THAT THIS

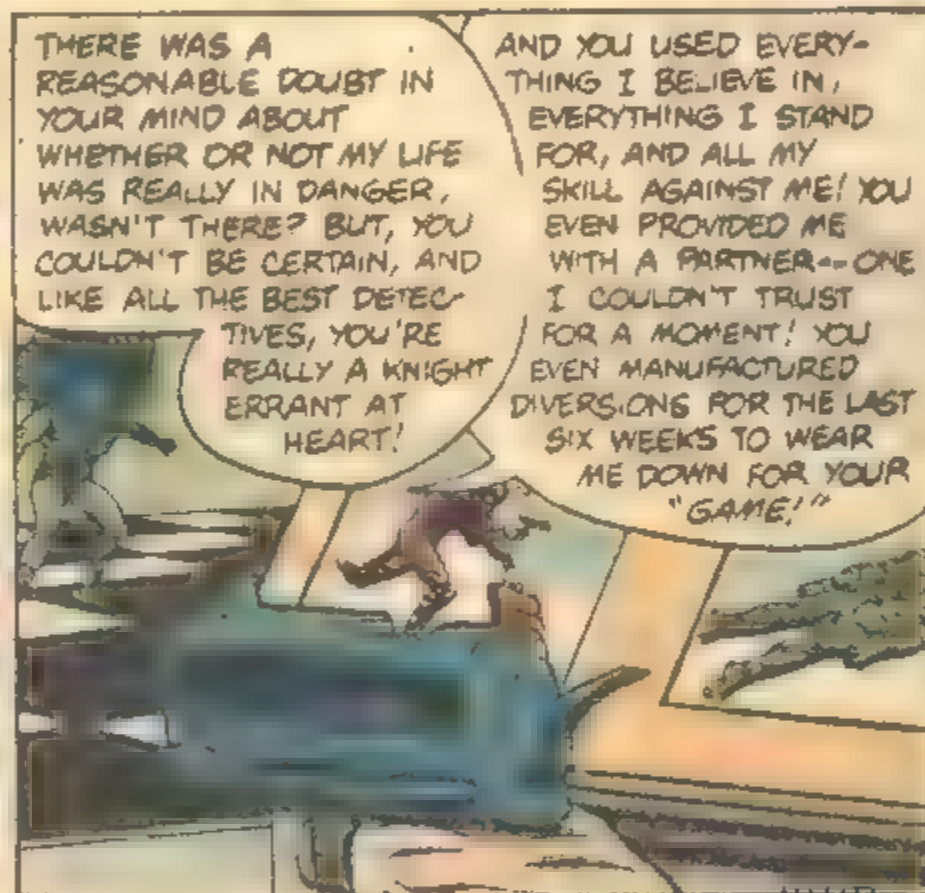
HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE IN DISTRACTING BATMAN! KEEP THE MONEY WITH MY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

GAMBIT WAS CONCERNED-- AND SOON TO BE EXECUTED, BY ME?



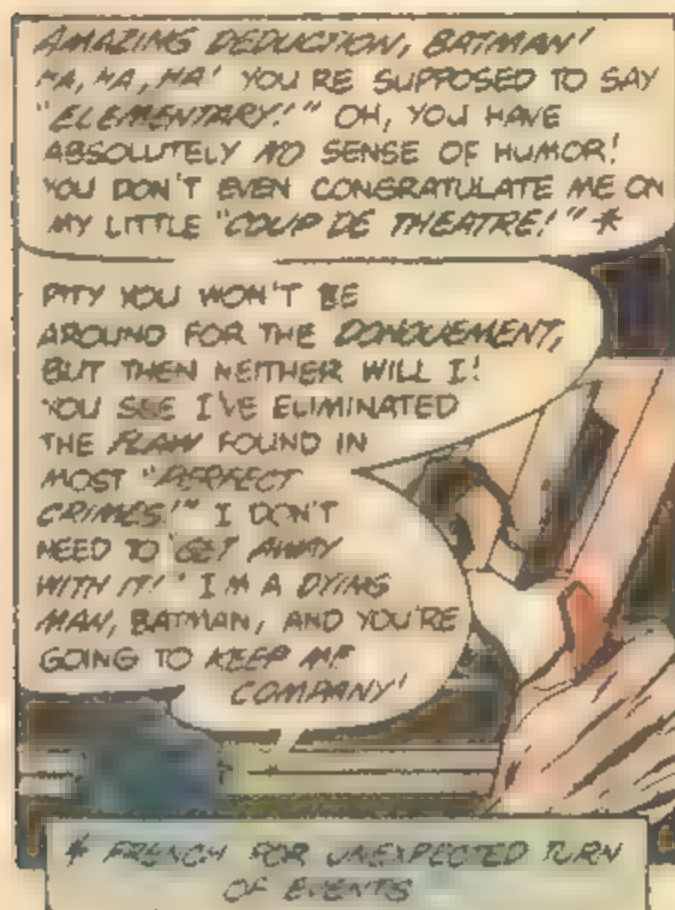
TRUTHFULLY? YES, I SUSPECTED WHAT YOU WERE DOING! YOU SEE, I'VE READ YOUR BOOKS! SO, I KNOW YOUR METHODS, IF NOT YOUR MOTIVES!

MY METHODS ARE INGENIOUS! MY MOTIVES ARE HOMICIDAL, POSITIVELY HOMICIDAL!



THERE WAS A REASONABLE DOUBT IN YOUR MIND ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT MY LIFE WAS REALLY IN DANGER, WASN'T THERE? BUT, YOU COULDN'T BE CERTAIN, AND LIKE ALL THE BEST DETECTIVES, YOU'RE REALLY A KNIGHT ERRANT AT HEART!

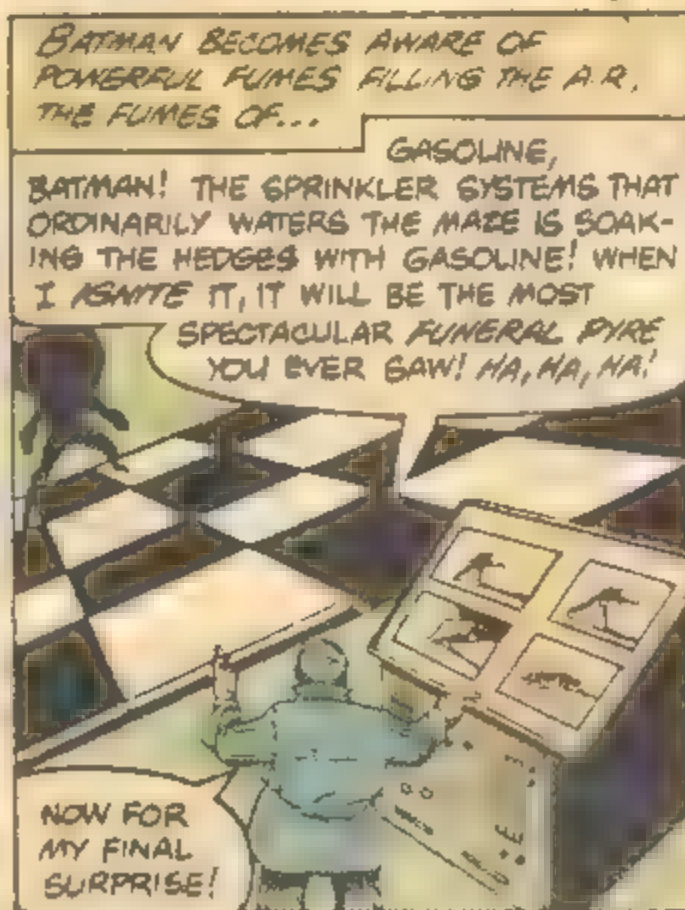
AND YOU USED EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN, EVERYTHING I STAND FOR, AND ALL MY SKILL AGAINST ME! YOU EVEN PROVIDED ME WITH A PARTNER--ONE I COULDN'T TRUST FOR A MOMENT! YOU EVEN MANUFACTURED DIVERSIONS FOR THE LAST SIX WEEKS TO WEAR ME DOWN FOR YOUR "GAME!"



AMAZING DEDUCTION, BATMAN! HA, HA, HA! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY "ELEMENTARY!" OH, YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR! YOU DON'T EVEN CONGRATULATE ME ON MY LITTLE "COUP DE THEATRE!" *

PITY YOU WON'T BE AROUND FOR THE CONSEQUENCE, BUT THEN NEITHER WILL I! YOU SEE I'VE ELIMINATED THE FLAW FOUND IN MOST "PERFECT CRIMES!" I DON'T NEED TO GET AWAY WITH IT! I'M A DYING MAN, BATMAN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ME COMPANY!

* FRENCH FOR UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS



BATMAN BECOMES AWARE OF POWERFUL FUMES FILLING THE A.R. THE FUMES OF...

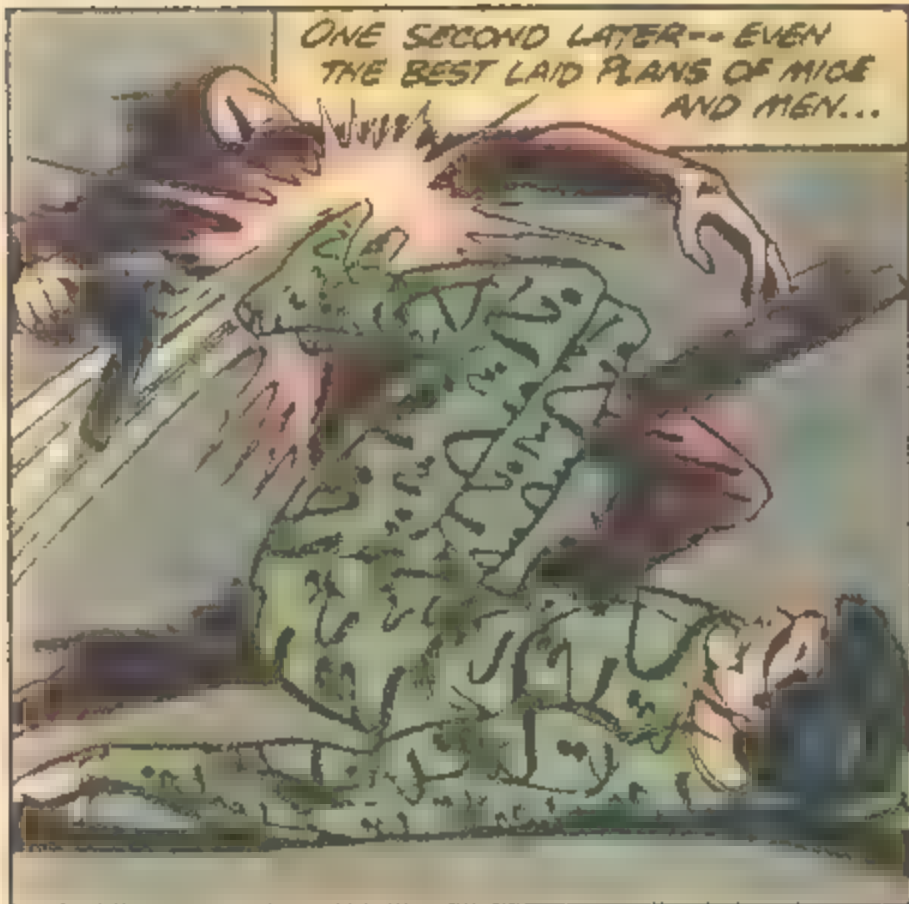
GASOLINE, BATMAN! THE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS THAT ORDINARILY WATERS THE MAZE IS SOAKING THE HEDGES WITH GASOLINE! WHEN I IGNITE IT, IT WILL BE THE MOST SPECTACULAR FUNERAL PYRE YOU EVER SAW! HA, HA, HA!

NOW FOR MY FINAL SURPRISE!



SO ENDS THE RIDDLER! AS FOR YOU, BATMAN, YOU'LL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT I HAVE CORRECTLY DEDUCED YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!

ONE SECOND LATER-- EVEN
THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE
AND MEN...



THE RIDDLER KNOWS THAT CURIOSITY KILLED THE
CAT! BUT, FOR THE RIDDLER, THE CHOICE BETWEEN
TAKING THREE MILLION IN CASH AND SATISFYING
HIS CURIOSITY IS NOT A CLEAR CUT DECISION!



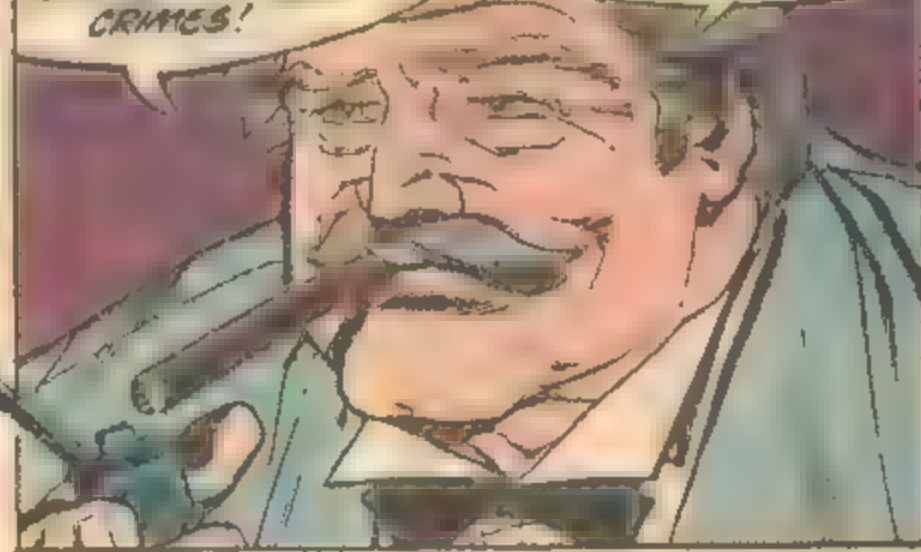
YES, BATMAN, I KNOW
THAT YOU ARE BRUCE WAYNE!
THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELM-
ING! YOU CANNOT DENY IT!
I HAVE A VOICE PRINT
ANALYSIS COMPARISON
BETWEEN BRUCE WAYNE
AND BATMAN THAT
IS PROOF POSITIVE!

DON'T YOU FEEL
I'M ENTITLED
TO KNOW WHY
YOU INTEND
TO DO THIS
THING?



WHY? BECAUSE YOU
ROBBED ME OF THE ONE
THING I COULD NEVER
REPLACE-- MY UNIQUENESS!
BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG,
BATMAN, THE POLICE CAME
TO ME FOR ADVICE! I HAD
THE SUPREME PLEASURE
OF SOLVING REAL
CRIMES!

BUT, YOU MADE ME...
REDUNDANT! NOW,
BEFORE MY ILLNESS
EATS AWAY MY LIFE,
I SHALL HAVE THE
NEXT GREATEST
PLEASURE-- COMMIT-
TING A REAL CRIME!



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RUNNING, I'M A DEAD
SHOT! THE FUMES IN THE AIR WILL IGNITE FIRST!
YOU WILL HAVE, PERHAPS, TWO OR THREE
MINUTES BEFORE YOU ARE OVERCOME BY SMOKE
INHALATION OR YOU START TO BURN TO DEATH!
IMAGINE, A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR ME-- A
FIERY CUL-DE-SAC* FOR YOU! HA, HA!
ADIEU, ADIEU, REMEMBER ME! HA, HA...



* FRENCH FOR DEAD END.

IN THE INSTANT BETWEEN CREIGHTON'S SHOT
AND THE MOMENT THE ENTIRE BLAZE IGNITES,
BATMAN DIVES TO THE GROUND, WHERE A FEW
PRECIOUS BREATHS OF AIR ARE LEFT!



WITHOUT HIS UTILITY BELT, BATMAN CANNOT BUY ANY MORE PRECIOUS TIME TO FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHAMBER BELOW THE MAZE-- THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF CREIGHTON'S INFERNO!



THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM, HE'S FINISHED! NOW, IF ONLY THESE CONTROLS STILL WORK!



SUDDENLY, NOT EVEN THE FLAME RETARDANT FABRIC OF BATMAN'S COSTUME CAN WITHSTAND THE HEAT OF THE INFERNO INDEFINITELY.



AS THE BREATHABLE AIR IN THE MAZE IS FAST BEING EXHAUSTED, BATMAN DESPERATELY SEARCHES FOR AN OPENING TO THE SHAFT BELOW.



AND THEN, EVEN THOUGH HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT REMAINS UNSEATHED, HIS BODY GRADUALLY HERCULEANLY... TRAGICALLY... STARTS TO SUCCEED TO THE HEAT AND SMOKE INHALATION!

NEARLY UNCONSCIOUS, BATMAN CANNOT HEAR THE SOUND OF THE HYDRAULIC LIFT, UNTIL THE RUSH OF FRESH AIR FROM THE SHAFT GIVES HIM ONE MORE BREATH OF LIFE! THROUGH SMOKE IRRITATED EYES, HE BARELY PERCEIVES THE FIGURE OF...

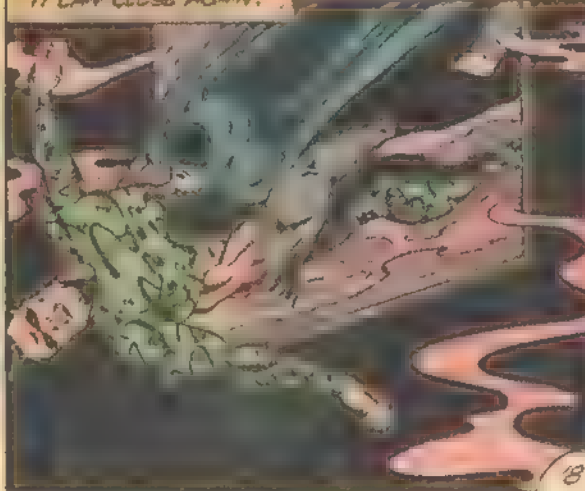


THE RIDDLER!

INEXPLICABLY, THE RIDDLER RISKS HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THAT OF HIS SWORN ENEMY! BUT, NOW EVEN THE AIR FROM THE SHAFT IS RENDERED UNBREATHABLE AND...



WITH ONE MORE BURST OF ADRENALINE, BATMAN SEIZES THE COLLAPSING RIDDLER AND TOGETHER THEY PLUNGE INTO THE SHAFT BEFORE IT CAN CLOSE AGAIN!



WITH HIS LAST MEASURE OF STRENGTH...

...COUGH...

...HE DIALS 911 AND MUTTERS...

500 PARK DRIVE...
EMERGENCY...COUGH, COUGH...

...AND THEN COLLAPSES!

7:30 A.M. -- AS
OXYGEN RUSHES
INTO HIS LUNGS...

THAT BROUGHT
HIM AROUND,
COMMISSIONER

TAKE IT EASY, BATMAN, YOU'VE INHALED
A LOT OF SMOKE AND YOU'VE GOT SECOND
DEGREE BURNS IF THE WIND HADN'T CHANGED.
THE BLAZE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE HOUSE
WITH IT, TOO!

M-HELP...
ME UP,
I-I OWE
THE
RIDDLER
SOMETHING!

THANKS,
COMMISSIONER!

RIDDLER,
YOU SAVED
MY LIFE!
WHY?

I TOLD YOU...
I HAVE
ETHICS! FOR
ME THE GAME
IS *EVERYTHING*!
YOU'D PROBABLY
CALL IT *QUIXOTIC*!
BUT, YOU WERE
THE ONLY ONE
LEFT ALIVE WHO
KNEW THE LAST
PIECE OF THE
PUZZLE! I'VE GOT
TO KNOW!

THAT'S A LONG STORY, AND
RIGHT NOW I'M TOO TIRED
TO TELL IT! BUT, I'LL GIVE
YOU THE SOLUTION TO THE
RIDDLE ON THE NEXT
VISITING DAY AT THE
PENITENTIARY!

HOW ODD! CREIGHTON
WAS THE MASTER
OF "*PERFECT
CRIMES*," BUT HE
COULD NEVER HAVE
ANTICIPATED THAT THE
RIDDLER, A *CRIMINAL*,
WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM
WRITING HIS FINAL MASTER-
PIECE -- "*THE DEATH
OF BATMAN*!"

END

THE SCALES OF JUSTICE... NEED A PERFECT
BALANCE... THEY STAND TO A WAR AND
MUTUAL TERROR AT BETWEEN THEM... BUT
THEY ARE NOT... IN THE HANDS OF JUSTICE ARE
THEY... THEY ARE AS A SILENT TO
A SILENT THAT BEHIND A HALL JUDGE?

NEMESIS

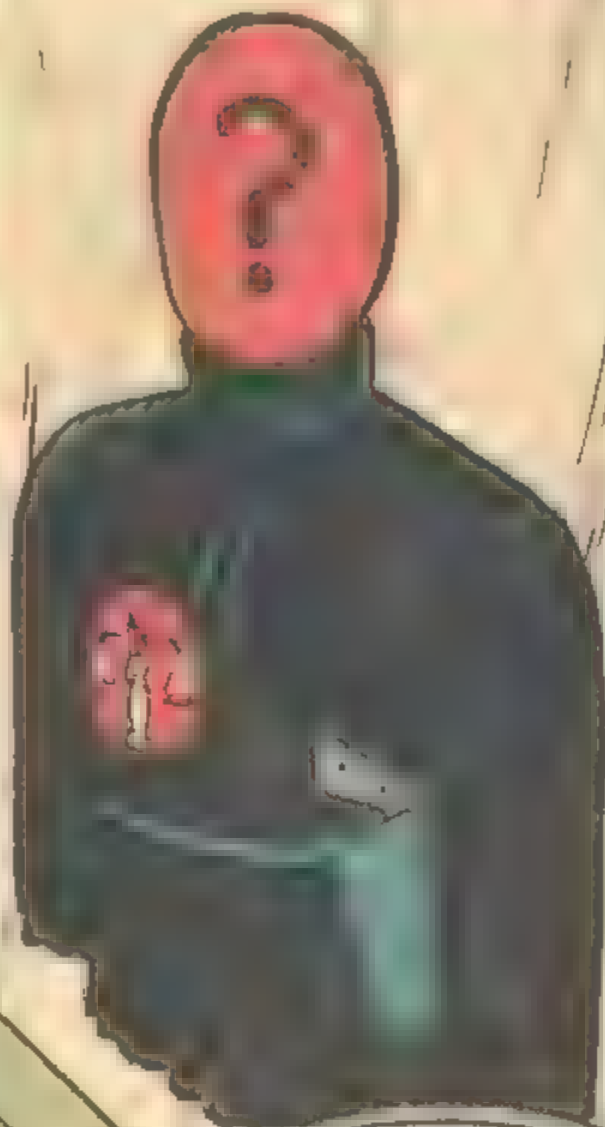
GREYFOX THE ASSASSIN...
IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES
OF CRIME, HIS NAME IS
LEGENDARY AS A MAN WHO
NEVER FAILS HIS ASSIGNMENTS...

HIS REPUTATION HAS MADE
HIM ONE OF THE MOST
FEARED CRIMINALS IN
THE ENTIRE WORLD...

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN GREYFOX
IS ON YOUR TRAIL, THERE IS NO
HIDING PLACE, NO SAFETY...
EXCEPT THE GRAVE ITSELF...



AND NOW, THE PREY THAT HE
TRACKS IS NEMESIS!



FOX and HOUNDS!

CHRY BURKETT
WRITER / CREATOR

DAN SPIEGLE
ARTIST

JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER

CARL GAFFORD
COLORIST

DICK SICILIANO
EDITOR

AH, MES AMIS, WE HAVE DONE WELL, THUS FAR! WE HAVE TRACKED OUR ENEMY TO HIS BASE IN NEW YORK*... AND SOON WE SHALL FLUSH HIM INTO THE OPEN!



BUT... EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW HE IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY, HOW CAN WE EVER HOPE TO FIND HIM? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!

* LAST ISSUE -- DICK

OBSERVE: THESE ARE SKETCHES THAT I HAVE MADE FROM DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN BY PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY ENCOUNTERED THIS NEMESIS.



MOST, IF NOT ALL, ARE MERELY DISGUISES.. BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OF THEM MAY BE HIS REAL FACE!



ALREADY MY CONTACTS IN THE UNDERWORLD OF THIS CITY HAVE BEGUN THEIR SEARCH. THE SLIGHTEST MENTION OF NEMESIS WILL BE INVESTIGATED!

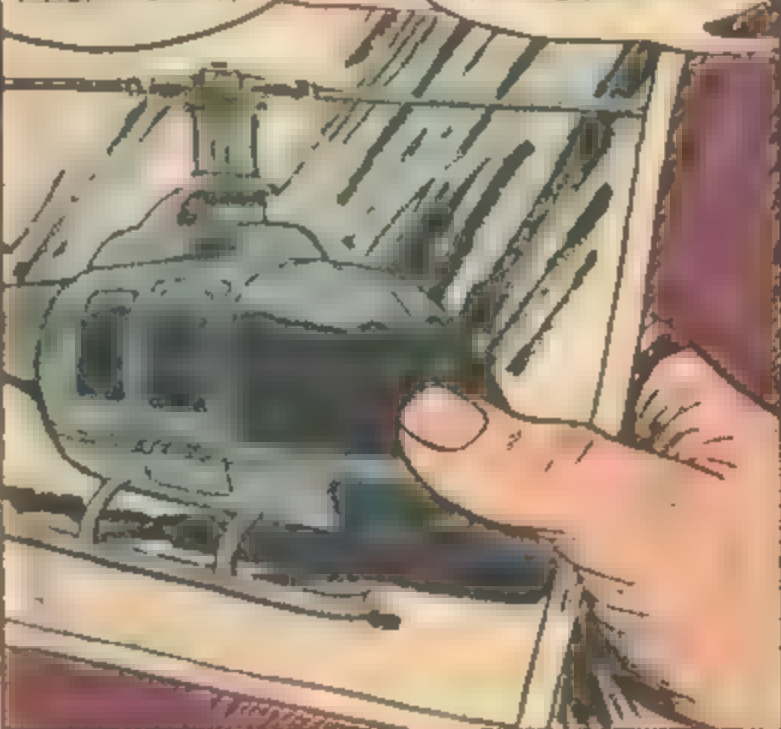


AND I AM EXPLORING OTHER POSSIBLE LEADS...



...SUCH AS THIS HELICOPTER THAT NEMESIS STOLE FROM THE COUNCIL!* I HAVE MY MEN SEARCHING EVERY AIRPORT IN THE AREA FOR IT!

DOUBTLESS HE HAS REPAINTED IT AND PERHAPS OVERHAULED IT IN OTHER WAYS... BUT HE COULD NOT MORE CHANGED THE SERIAL NUMBER ON IT!



*HE STOLE IT IN B&B #169 -- DICK.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE SHALL TRACK HIM DOWN, MES AMIS! AND WHEN WE DO...



...THE COUNCIL WILL GET WHAT THEY PAID ME TO DELIVER...

...THE DEATH OF NEMESIS!!



WHILE, ACROSS THE CITY, IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA...

YOU AND CHRIS SHOULD BE SAFE HERE IN YOUR NEW APARTMENT, VALERIE! I DON'T THINK GREYFOX IS AFTER YOU ANYWAY... HE JUST USED YOU TO GET ME! *

BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FACE HIM ALONE? WE COULD HELP YOU!

TOO RISKY! GREYFOX KNOWS WHAT BOTH OF YOU LOOK LIKE, AND WOULD SPOT YOU IN A SECOND!

JUST LAY LOW FOR AWHILE... ESTABLISH YOURSELF IN YOUR NEW IDENTITY AND JOB... I'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SOON!

* LAST ISSUE AGAIN -- DICK

MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S SAFER FOR VALERIE AND HER BROTHER IF THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM! GREYFOX IS CLEVER...

...AND WITH ALL HIS RESOURCES, THERE'S NO WAY OF TELLING WHAT HE MAY HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT ME ALREADY!

SO MY SAFEST MOVE IS TO ASSUME A COMPLETELY NEW IDENTITY FOR THE TIME BEING...

...THAT OF EDWIN ROBY, GENERAL MANAGER OF FOAMGLASS PRODUCTS... IN TOWN TO SWING A BIG BUSINESS DEAL...

"AND I BETTER NOT FORGET TO SWITCH LICENSE PLATES TO A DIFFERENT STATE... IT'S LITTLE DETAILS LIKE THAT WHICH COULD GIVE ME AWAY!"

IS NEW YORK BS
HG-7313

IS PENNSYLVANIA BS
WJ-5843

A SHORT
WHILE LATER...

I'LL CHANGE MY BASE
OF OPERATIONS TO THIS
HOTEL FOR AWHILE...
WITH A DEVIL LIKE GREYFOX
ON MY TAIL, I CAN'T RISK
WORKING OUT OF MY
APARTMENTS!

SOMEHOW HE MIGHT
TRACK ME DOWN THERE...
AND INVOLVE THAT INNO-
CENT OLD COUPLE WHO
TAKES CARE OF THE
PLACE FOR ME.

A SHIFT IN TIME. THE
FOLLOWING EVENING AT
THE APARTMENT OF AN
UNDERWORLD INFORMER
KNOWN AS ROADRUNNER..

MMMM... MAN! AINT
NOTHIN' LIKE A HOT
SHOWER TO PERK YOU UP
-- GET YOU READY FOR
A HOT NIGHT OUT

YESSIR, AND I
KNOW ONE
LITTLE GIRL
WHO'S GONNA...
LIRKK!

TH-THOSE
LITTLE SCALES!
IT-IT'S HIM!
HE'S BACK!

WHAT'S THE MATTER,
ROADRUNNER? CAN'T
COPE WITH UNEXPECTED
COMPANY?

NEMESIS? NO, MAN...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE
COME HERE! THEY WANT
TO KILL
YOU!

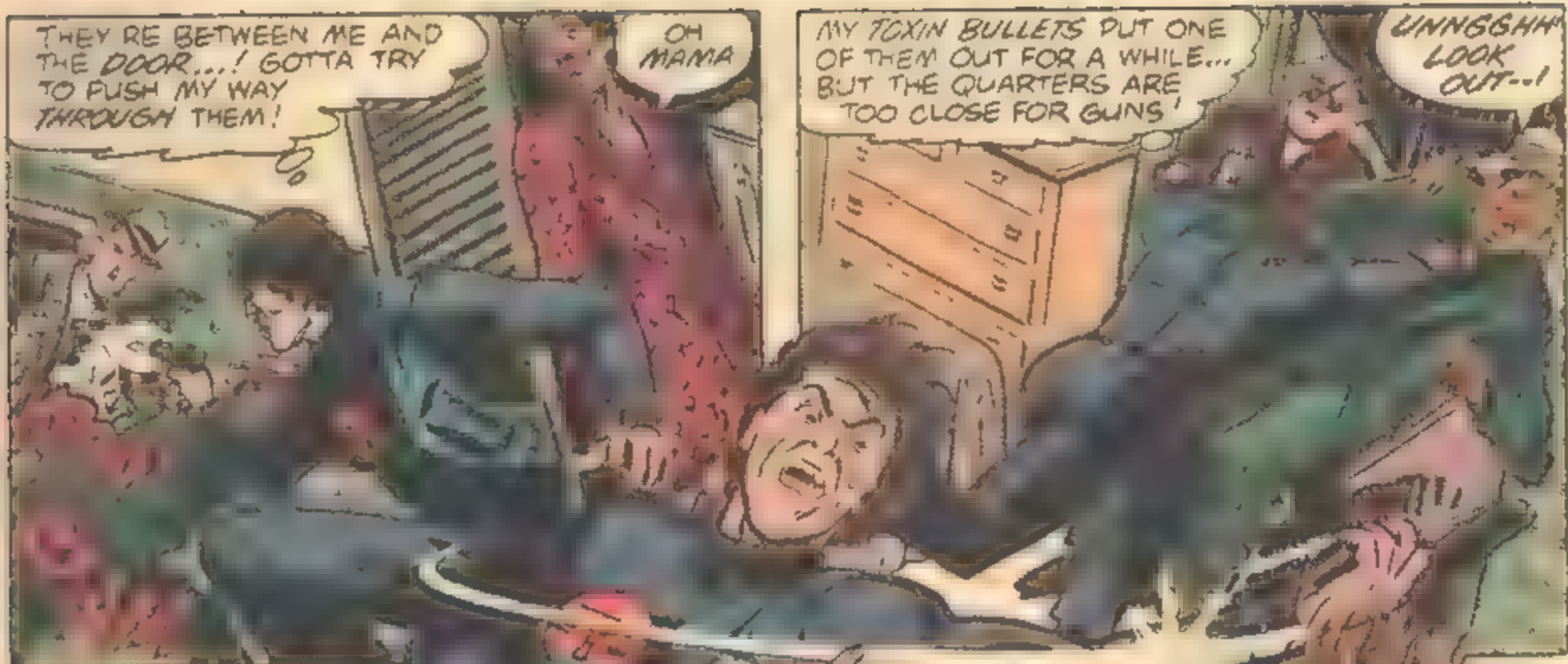
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT? I
ONLY CAME HERE
FOR SOME INFORMAT-
ION, ROADRUNNER!
WHO WANTS TO
KILL ME?

MAN, THE WHOLE
FREAKIN' UNDERWORLD!
THERE'S A BIG PRICE
ON YOUR HEAD! AND
THEY KNOW THAT I
HELPED YOU BEFORE &
...THEY'RE WATCHING
THIS PLACE!

THEN, AS HE TO
PUNCTUATE
ROADRUNNER'S
STATEMENT...

JUST SHUT
UP AND SHOOT
THE SUCKER!
WE GONNA
COLLECT US
A BIG FAT
REEWARD!

THERE HE IS! I
TOLD YOU I SAW
SOMEONE SNEAK-
ING INTO THIS
PLACE!



THEY'RE BETWEEN ME AND THE DOOR...! GOTTA TRY TO PUSH MY WAY THROUGH THEM!

OH MAMA

MY TOXIN BULLETS PUT ONE OF THEM OUT FOR A WHILE... BUT THE QUARTERS ARE TOO CLOSE FOR GUNS!

UNNGSHH! LOOK OUT--!



GREYFOX MOVED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED! I NEVER DREAMED HE WOULD HAVE ROADRUNNER'S PLACE WATCHED!

OOOF!

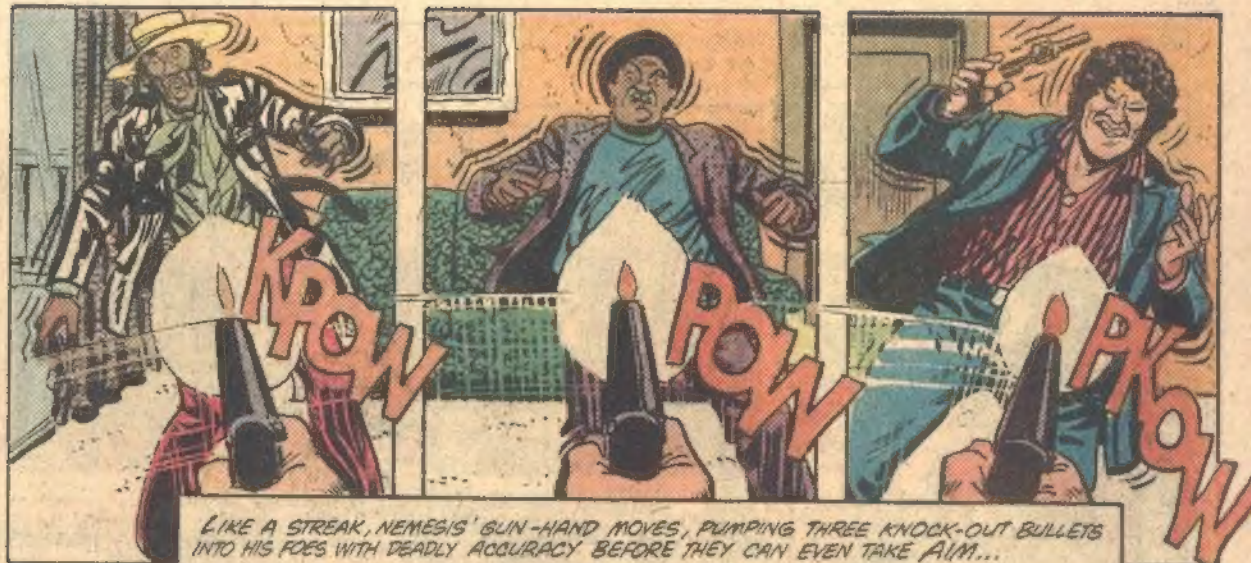


ROADRUNNER MUST HAVE SHOT OFF HIS MOUTH ABOUT WORKING WITH ME BEFORE... AND GREYFOX FIGURED I MIGHT CONTACT HIM AGAIN!



MADE IT THROUGH! NOW I... NO! MORE OF THEM! I'M TRAPPED BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS!

HEY! IT'S HIM!



LIKE A STREAK, NEMESIS' GUN-HAND MOVES, PUMPING THREE KNOCK-OUT BULLETS INTO HIS FOES WITH DEADLY ACCURACY BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN TAKE AIM...

... AND WITHOUT HALTING HIS MOTION, THE DARK HERALD OF JUSTICE TWISTS HIS BODY TO CONTINUE HIS FIRE AT HIS ENEMIES BEHIND HIM.



I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!

I AIN'T NEVER SEEN SHOOTING LIKE THAT BEFORE! NEVER!

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER NEMESIS HAS BOUND HIS SOLE REMAINING ADVERSARY...

IT'S OKAY, ROADRUNNER... YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!

I'M GLAD YOU WON, MR. NEMESIS, MAN... YOU SAVED MY NECK WHEN WILEY THORN WAS AFTER ME, AN' OL' ROADRUNNER DON'T FORGET THAT!



BUT IF YOU WANNA KEEP ON LUVIN', YOU BETTER SPLIT, MAN! THERE'S MORE GUYS AFTER YOUR BLOOD THAN THERE ARE ROACHES IN HARLEM!



I'M LEAVING... BUT FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME SOME INFO... STARTING WITH WHERE GREYFOX HAS SET UP HIS HEADQUARTERS! 6

GREYFOX HEADQUARTERS...
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

MAIS OUI?
YOU HAVE FOUND
THE HELICOPTER
THAT NEMESIS
STOLE FROM
THE COUNCIL?
TRES BIEN!

I WAS SURE
HE WOULD
NOT HAVE
DISPOSED OF
SO VALUABLE
A PIECE OF
EQUIPMENT!
QUICKLY... WHERE
IS THE AIRPORT
LOCATED?

A SHORT RIDE TO
THE OUTSKIRTS OF
THE CITY AND...

AM... HE HAS MADE MANY
ADDITIONS TO THIS HELICOPTER
SINCE HE STOLE IT... BUT THERE
IS NO DOUBT THAT IT IS HIS!

OUR FOE IS
REALLY A
MASTER OF
INVENTION!



HEY!
WHAT ARE
YOU GUYS
DOING IN
MR. KING'S
HELICOPTER?
NO ONE'S
SUPPOSED
TO TOUCH
IT EXCEPT
ME!

HOW'D
YOU GET
IN HERE
ANYWAY?



YOU DEAF,
MISTER? I GOT
STRICT ORDERS TO
KEEP PEOPLE FROM
THAT 'COPTER!

NOW YOU'D
BETTER
BEAT IT
BEFORE I...



THUD

--YAAHH!!
OOOF!!

NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY,
MONSIEUR... THIS MR. KING
YOU MENTIONED WHO OWNS
THE COPTER-- YOU ARE GOING TO
CALL HIM, TELL HIM TO COME
HERE TO THE
AIRPORT!



STUFF IT!
I AIN'T
DOING
NOTHING
FOR YOU!





BRAVE & BOLD MAILBAG

c/o DC COMICS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

L-955

Dear Editor,

While Jim Aparo and Dan Spiegle turned in fine artistic jobs as always, it was the stories that made #178 a great issue.

The plot in "Paperchase" featuring Wetley's listeners using him as a psychic focus in creating the origami monster was superb and more realistic than one might think. But characterization was this epic's high point. Ryder's speech on democracy was beautiful. The Creeper's one-liners were hilarious and so was the part where Batman had to choose between being called "Bats" or "B.M."

"The Bitter Choice" was another good chapter in the Nemesis-Solomon battle. Solomon is as crafty as they come, and I expect a titanic confrontation between these two, especially with a two month waiting period this time. Reaction to Nemesis seems to be in perfect balance, so I hope this letter can tip the scales in his favor. Cary has now created a fine supporting cast (keep Prospero!) for his hero, in addition to his excellent stories. Nemesis is a very entertaining character and I hope you keep him around.

You know, I wanted to find a fault with this issue, but I couldn't.

John Ervin, 1355 Sterling Dr, Cortland, OH 44410

Thanks for trying, John. We do appreciate the effort.

Dear Editor,

Of all the Brave & Bold stories, 178 ranks with the best. The Batman is perfect to be teamed up with The Creeper, The Phantom Stranger, or The Spectre. It makes The Batman's supernatural legend all the more better. Only one discrepancy, however. On page 13, panel 4, there is a Legion Cruiser flying through the moonlit sky. Perhaps you could supply the readers with an explanation of this obvious anomaly. With the exception of this, the issue was terrific. Keep up the good work. Also keep going with Nemesis as a second feature. He makes a good follow up after a Batman story.

Ken Lewallen, 1460 S. Gordon Rd, Austell, GA 30001

Dear Sirs,

I want to report an UFO. I sighted it over Gotham City. It was big, had a round part in front and a square part in back and looked a bit like the space-ship used by the Legion of Super-Heroes.

What gives?

- Shawn Wilson, 232 State St, Westbury, NY

THE SECRET REVEALED: The gimmick referred to above will be a continuing part of this magazine. It is a teaser. A preview of the coming attraction. Hidden somewhere in each issue will be a small clue of what to expect next. Happy Hunting!

This being #644 in a series from our Toronto correspondent, TM Maple:

Dear Editor,

Seldom, if ever, have I looked forward to an author's second story as much as I did to Alan Brennert's second effort. His

debut in Detective #500 was stunning and I was eager to see if he could even come close the next time. Also, the fact that comic book scripting is only a sideline to him can be seen as a plus. Since he does few comics stories the basic idea for each one would have more time to grow and he would be less likely to waste his time on a "throwaway" tale.

Generally, "Paperchase" (#178) fulfilled my expectations, an excellent story. I tend to dismiss Brennert's supernatural explanation for the Paper/Origami Man as merely necessary rationalization to fit the idea into the DC Universe and instead look at the episode as an exercise in symbolism. Such elements were abundant and some showed the influence of Brennert's dual career, both literary (comics) and media (TV).

It's only natural for a literary person to fantasize having someone right wrongs (albeit only within the character's own twisted framework) with paper. (After all, the pen, not to mention the page, is mightier than the sword.) Similarly, it's only natural for a media person to fantasize a TV commentator as being merely a focus or conduit for the desires of the public. (After all, TV merely gives the people what they want, as measured via ratings.) And a person who deals in his profession with information and, ultimately, the mind will naturally tend to hold the idea that self-knowledge is freedom and control (p. 17).

Brennert used the Creeper or, more specifically, Jack Ryder well. His rebirth as a responsible newscaster (p. 14) served to show the moral responsibility of the media to guide and shape public opinion (since they do it whether they plan to or not—to make no moral judgments is a judgment in itself) and acted to counteract the "media as conduit" stance. Brennert also dealt succinctly with Ryder's inner conflicts: using his superhero identity as an escape from reality and allowing it to harm his "real" career.

I assume that we have Jim Aparo to thank for the bizarrely appropriate appearance of the Paper/Origami Man and for the nice touches such as the fidgety capering of the Creeper (especially on p. 8). So, thank you, Jim.

And, to observe the proper graces: thank you, Alan. And thanks to you, Dick, for getting them to team up. Enough thanks; a request: Let's see more of Brennert's work! P.S. I liked the intended (I think) pun about using waste paper to fight "moral pollution".

Yours truly

Dear Brave and the Bold,

I liked the recent issue because Batman was the star and you know he is my very favorite character. My brother, who is 17, took me to the store in his car and we bought quite a few books SUPERMAN, SUPERBOY, and LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. We both thought BRAVE AND THE BOLD was best.

My birthday is January 2. When is your birthday?

Your friend,

Kitty O'Lone, 2311 Spring Garden St, Williamsport, PA

Happy Birthday to you, Kitty. My birthday is on July 20th. And I'm glad to be your friend! Thank you and good afternoon.